Daily Report

Latin America

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ALADI Under Secretaries Meet in Montevideo

PY2003201889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0054 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Mar (EFE)—The 11 member countries of ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] have expressed their governments' political will to strengthen the process toward a regional common market. This was decided at the end of a meeting among ALADI member country under secretaries that concluded today in Montevideo.

The governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela have decided to concentrate on integration, without detriment to their traditional trade relations.

According to the ALADI general secretariat, the new actions are concentrated on cooperation and economic complementation.

After 3 days of deliberations on more flexible commerce within the ALADI, the members concluded that "the main challenge for the integration process toward the end of the eighties is to strengthen regional trade."

According to experts, the task should be approached from "the problematic aspect" of the lack of financial liquidity, "the industrialized countries' trade protectionism, and an increasing opening to the world of the ALADI countries' economies, as well as regional considerations that affect the efficiency of the traditional trade negotiations."

The meeting, which was held to eliminate nontariff barriers on commerce among ALADI countries, was presided over by Sebastiao do Rego Barros Neto, under secretary general for economic and commerce affairs at the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.

The ALADI under secretaries also decided that the negotiations on bilateral and regional tariffs should be combined with new cooperation measures, for which they prepared a program of meetings by experts from 1 April to 30 September.

Some of the subjects discussed by the ALADI members were: economic complementation in the fields of agriculture, cattle, industry, technological cooperation, and promotion of trade in basic products; the increase of exports and public sector imports; and simplification and harmonization of bureaucratic procedures.

Within the financial and monetary areas, the ALADI members will study payment problems and the debt among regional countries, as well as trade financing and investment stimulation.

IDB Meeting Ends With 'Agreement' on Loans

FL2203124589 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] The annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] delegates in Amsterdam have paved the way for an urgently needed financial injection for the bank of nearly 26.5 billion dollars.

An agreement was reached after 16 hours of negotiations, putting an end to 3 years of conflict between the countries of Latin America who borrow money from the IDB and the United States, which is its principal financier.

Washington, which demanded the right to veto loans, has now modified its position and will only delay the extension of loans that are seen as uneconomical.

Countries in the Caribbean which, on the basis of their per capita income, would not qualify for IMF and World Bank loans, such as Barbados and the Bahamas, will not be able to get credit from the IDB.

Cuba

Vice President Comments on Nicaragua, Debt

PY2303141489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Following a meeting with President Alan Garcia at Government Palace this afternoon, Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez expressed support for the Peruvian stance on the foreign debt.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What subjects did you discuss with President Garcia during your visit?

[Rodriguez] As always, we talked about Latin America, which is always a point of discussion both for Peru and Cuba.

We also talked about the foreign debt, which is a common subject to our countries.

[Reporter] Concerning the foreign debt, what points did you specifically discuss? What was your analysis on this matter...

[Rodriguez, interrupting] We reviewed the latest foreign debt problems. We discussed the problems within the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] as a result of the new discussions in which Peru is involved. We reached the conclusion that the foreign debt issue is a problem of time and anguish for Latin America.

[Reporter] Did you express support for the position of the Peruvian president, Sir?

[Rodriguez] We did. We have our own position, which is to (?consider) the foreign debt as unpayable.

We believe that the position of President Alan Garcia is compatible with our position because it represents an effort by a country to pay only what it is in a position to pay.

[Reporter] But the IMF is pressing, sir. [passage indistinct]. You have a clear position but Peru has [words indistinct].

[Rodriguez] We are not IMF members. It is easier for us to uphold such a position. However, we have a very clear position and Peru is forging their position, one that is becoming increasingly more firm. [Havana International Service in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 24 March carries a similar version of this news conference, inserting the following paragraphs at this point:

[Reporter] Mr Vice President, Mikhail Gorbachev will arrive in Cuba within a few days. What is Cuba's view on perestroyka in the Soviet Union?

[Rodriguez] We view it with great interest. We believe that what is happening in the Soviet Union is worthy of consideration, but we have our own position. There is talk that Cuba is opposed to perestroyka, but that is not true. We have reviewed perestroyka and have seen that it cannot be applied to the Cuban situation, which is so different.

[Reporter] Why is Cuban openness in the international arena impossible, sir?

[Rodriguez] We are open to the world. We are not only open, we are actively open. We have an increasingly open position toward Latin America, and Fidel Castro's presence at Latin American presidents' inaugurations proves that. We are open to the world and to forming international relations. We have more than 112 ambassadors abroad. We have a smooth relationship with West European nations. Thus, you cannot say that Cuba is closed to the world.] [end Havana International Service's additional paragraphs]

[Reporter] What is the Cuban position on the Central American conflict?

[Rodriguez] The Cuban position is well known. We do not think the Central American conflict can be solved by military means; it must be negotiated.

We support the Nicaraguan position. We believe that the Nicaraguan position of allowing a democratic opening is a position that is consistent with everything Nicaragua has been doing so far. We agree with this position. We expect the United States to react because it is not possible for the United States to uphold military positions in the face of this opening.

The contras have been militarily defeated. They must also be politically defeated and this is what Nicaragua is proposing.

Therefore, we are willing to end our participation (?in) Central America by withdrawing our assistance involving military experts there. We do not have any military troops in Nicaragua and we are willing to withdraw our military advisers as soon as Nicaragua deems it appropriate. [Havana International Service at this point also adds the following paragraphs:

[Reporter] Do you not think that the best solution for Central America is to handle the conflict within an East-West context?

[Rodriguez] Well, I believe that the conflict should be viewed from a North-South context, meaning the United States and Latin America, and not within an East-West context. That is the reality of the situation.] [Havana International Service ends their version of the news conference at this point]

[Reporter] Mr Vice President, have any development projects been discussed at a bilateral level between Peru and Cuba?

[Rodriguez] We have not discussed this at a bilateral level but there are cooperation projects currently being implemented.

[Reporter] How would you describe Peruvian-Cuban relations?

[Rodriguez] Excellent. [end recording]

Rodriguez Returns From Peru, Brazil Trip
FL2303203589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez returned to our country today after having paid a 24-hour visit to Peru where he met with the highest government officials and leftist leaders. During his stay in Lima, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez spoke with Peruvian President Alan Garcia, Prime Minister Armando Villanueva, First Vice President and Senator Luis Alberto Sanchez, and Minister Guillermo Larco Cox. He also met with Luis Alba Castro, secretary general of the governmental American Popular Revolutionary Alliance, and he also had a friendly discussion with Alfonso Barrantes, socialist leader and former mayor of Lima.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez arrived in Lima from Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he attended, as a special guest, the inauguration of a monument to Latin American integration. He also attended an international meeting on the foreign debt.

Soviets Provide Support to Construction Projects
FL2303215689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1951 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] The Soviet specialists who provide support for the construction of a railroad plant in San Luis Municipality, Santiago de Cuba, have pledged to complete that project to salute the Fourth Congress in 1990.

Konstantin Platinov, chief of the group of specialists from the brother nation, said that they are working along with the Cuban construction workers on the project to guarantee with quality the construction of the modern facility which will permit major, general, and [word indistinct] repairs (?for) 150 locomotives yearly. Presently, the Soviet specialists render on-site advice in the areas of electricity, (?broilers), locomotives, and in the civil area of the San Luis railroad plant.

Regarding Gorbachev's upcoming visit to Cuba, Platinov emphasized that it will constitute a far-reaching event and strengthen friendship bonds.

Commentary on Results of 'Team Spirit' Exercise
FL2303162589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1435 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Fernando Delgado commentary]

[Text] Every year—and every time, with a greater use of war techniques and military forces—the United States and the South Korean puppet regime train their forces in the coordinated use of means and men to kill. Those war exercises, called by the Yankee name of "Team Spirit," are denounced by the DPRK as a test of U.S.-South Korean aggression that threatens the people who live on both sides of the common land, which is the Korean peninsula, despite the U.S. and their Seoul puppets' efforts to keep them divided.

As the aggressive and dangerous "Team Spirit" war exercises come to an end today, the only concrete result was the death of 23 of the soldiers who participated. This is a useless way of dying while learning how to kill.

At a time when the domestic situation becomes more intolerable because of the continued demonstrations and popular protests that demand its resignation, the South Korean regime clings to the U.S. ally and has just conducted the largest "Team Spirit" joint war exercise with 200,000 soldiers, 60,000 of them Americans.

In our opinion, those joint military maneuvers show that the South Korean authorities, despite their lukewarm statements, have not taken seriously the efforts made by the DPRK to reunite the fatherland. The Yankee "Team Spirit" in South Korea also shows that the contacts made by the Seoul authorities with the Pyongyang government are diplomatic maneuvers that form part of their true and unaccomplishable dreams: to maintain the crime of keeping the Korean people divided and antagonized forever.

Risquet Meets Italian Communist Party Leader
FL2303120789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes has met in Rome with Achille Occhetto, the secretary general of the Italian Communist Party [PCI], to whom he extended an invitation to visit our country. Risquet, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, held a cordial and friendly meeting with Occhetto and congratulated him on the 18th PCI Congress, which recently concluded, for strengthening the unity of the party, and for his ratification as PCI secretary general.

Risquet was also received by Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, chairman of the Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace, who expressed his satisfaction with the talks held in December in Havana with Cuban President Fidel Castro. Risquet also visited the headquarters of the FAO

[UN Food and Agriculture Organization] in Rome, where he participated in the presentation of Cuban paintings for the Cuba Hall of the main FAO building.

Chilean Socialist Party Leader Arrives

FL2403120589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Clodomiro Almeyda, secretary general of the Chilean Socialist Party, arrived in Cuba this morning. The distinguished visitor was received at the airport by Armando Campos, deputy chief of the America Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Nestor Serrano, an official of the same department. Carlos Lazo and Silvio Ramirez, members of the Chilean Socialist Party Central Committee, were also present at the airport.

At the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Almeyda will be in our country for 1 week. He will tour areas of historic, social, and economic interest.

Shortly after his arrival, Almeyda answered questions from our journalist, Dania Dieguez.

[Begin recording] [Dieguez] What is the role of the left in this process of concerted action for peace?

[Almeyda] The left is (?the result of) the people's movement because of its reason and its presence. In the heart of the masses, it plays a decisive role in developing the democratic forces in Chile, as was demonstrated by the plebiscite and as will be demonstrated by the period of active social fights that will take place this year. I think that the left will certainly play the role of the protagonist in accordance with the social and political force that characterizes the party and with its ideals which many people consider to be the most combative and democratic in Chile.

[Dieguez] How do you see the matter of unity 8 months (?after) the elections?

[Almeyda] I see it as being generally good. I think a great willingness to unite has been created among all the opposition forces. Of course, it is not easy to develop this willingness to unite among common candidates, but I think that it will come to this. It will come to this because we are all certain that the main objective that all Chileans should pursue now is to get Pinochet out and to change the institutional regime and its content so that free elections can be held. Pinochet cannot once again become sovereign leader and arbitrator of his own destiny. [end recording]

INDER President on Official Visit to CSSR

FL2303211489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1935 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Conrado Martinez Corona, president of the National Institute for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation [INDER], has been received in Prague by Jindrich Polednik, chairman of the Czechoslovak Physical Education Association.

During the meeting, a review was made of the fulfillment of the bilateral agreement between the two countries in the field of sports, which contains 62 areas of cooperation. The INDER official reiterated Cuba's gratitude to the Czechoslovak Physical Education Association for the assistance it renders our country in the assessment of the construction of a canal for rowing that will be used in the upcoming Pan-American Games. Conrado Martinez heads the INDER delegation to the European country, which is paying an official visit at the invitation of the Czechoslovak sports authorities.

30th Anniversary of State Security Marked

FL2303230089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] The commemorative seal for 30 years of state security was presented today to a group of combatants and members of that force during the main ceremony to mark the occasion in the Isle of Youth. The ceremony also served to pay tribute to all those who work in that front.

Armando Manresa Gonzales, first party secretary for the Isle of Youth, and other leaders presided over the tributary ceremony for the members of state security, who were warmly congratulated. Major Gilberto Landa, political section chief of the Ministry of the Interior delegation in Isle of Youth, emphasized the state security organs' fulfillment of multiple missions during the 30 years of its existence

Major Landa said today there are superior conditions and capabilities to perfect the daily work for the preservation of the security of our country.

'Bastion 89' Military Exercise Planned for Dec

FL2303132289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] The strategic exercise "Bastion 89" will be held during the first 2 weeks of December 1989. This was reported at the Ministry of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] during a meeting to create the main working group that will be responsible for organizing the exercise.

Brigade General Urbelino Betancourt Cruces [name as heard] stressed the importance of "Bastion 89" in strengthening the country's defensive abilities and the responsibilities which chiefs, officials, and functionaries have in preparing the event.

Students Graduate From Police Chiefs Course

FL2303125689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Brigade General Alberto Garcia Entensa, vice minister of interior and chief of the PNR [National Revolutionary Police], has said that the enemy of society who attempts to resist the police will find that the required force and energy will be used against him.

Garcia Entensa gave the closing remarks at the graduation ceremony for the students of the first course for company and squad chiefs. This is the ninth course held at the Pedro Ortiz Cabrera PNR school.

During the ceremony, 57 youths graduated as company and squad chiefs while 140 youths from Havana City, Havana, Pinar del Rio, and Matanzas graduated from the basic course. Diplomas and material incentives were presented to the top students and a statement was read on the commitments of the graduates, who expressed their decision to be examples of ethics and police work and to fulfill with pride the orders handed down by the PNR Directorate.

The graduates were promoted to the rank of deputy lieutenants and they gave an infantry demonstration and a demonstration of a march against serious alterations in the public order.

Structure, Cadre Changes in Culture Ministry

FL2303185289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] The changes of structure and cadres at the Culture Ministry announced at the Karl Marx Theater's Protocol Room today were described as very important for the country. Armando Hart, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and minister of culture, said that these changes were made so that the promotion of culture is guided and developed based on the principles of culture and not government institutions.

The new Culture Ministry structure has three vice ministers: Norberto Estrada [name as heard], who will be in charge of the economic sphere; and Carlos Marti and Omar Gonzalez, who will be jointly in charge of the cultural area.

In addition, six subsystems were created: books, movies, music, performing arts, plastic arts, and libraries. The cultural institutions in the country will be broadly represented in the ministry's directorate council.

[Begin recording] [Sergio Corrieri, (?secretary) of the Central Committee Culture Department] We believe that the creation of the ministry has undoubtedly resulted in an extraordinary progress for our cultural development during all these years. This has been said and studied. Undoubtedly—and now over the course of the years we see it more clearly—many mechanisms were adhered, dragged, and sometimes enthroned when it was created. Some of them came from the way the productive area operates. Undoubtedly, they did not take into account the specific needs of artistic creation and culture and were very inconvenient. I believe this has developed and has become more acute in many ways during these 13 years. I believe we are not exaggerating if we say that in many artistic manifestations we have a development, a creative potential that, truthfully, the state has not found the appropriate way to develop and promote fully and properly. I believe this is a reality and this structure tries to solve this contradiction, among other things. [end recording]

CTC Secretary General, 2d Secretary Removed

PA2303152689 Paris AFP in Spanish 2254 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Havana, 22 Mar (AFP)—Upon announcing the formation of the committee organizing the 16th Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] Congress, which will be held at the end of this year or early next year, the Cuban press reported today that CTC Secretary General Roberto Veiga and CTC Second Secretary General Rene Penalver have been removed from their posts.

According to the press report, the committee organizing the 16th CTC Congress—presided over by Pedro Ross Leal, Cuban Communist Party [PCC] Central Committee secretary—will assume the guiding and executive functions of the CTC until the congress is held.

No reason was given for the removal of Veiga, who had been the CTC secretary general for the last 15 years and a PCC Politburo member, and Penalver, who was also a PCC Central Committee member.

According to the press reports, both Veiga and Penalver were working on the preparation of the CTC Congress .

According to observers, the changes in the CTC foretell a restructuring of the role of the Cuban unions and important changes in their leaderships.

A few days ago, Ross Leal, who had been regarded as the unquestionable future CTC top leader, stated the need for "a strict cadres policy that would promote young men with new ideas and better political, cultural, and technical education" so "labor unions would occupy their appropriate place in the construction of socialism."

Haiti

Manigat Will Not Return 'Without Guarantees'

FL2303175889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Even though the RDNP [Assembly of Progressive National Democrats] headquarters is being repaired, and even though two or three RDNP partisans were yelling: Long live Manigat! in the Bourdon section [of Port-au-Prince] yesterday, and even though RNDP deputies are asking for their jobs back, Haiti's former president, Leslie Francois Manigat, told us that he is not yet ready to come back. He will not return without guarantees. For Leslie Manigat, the Haitian people themselves must ask that he return. The decision to reopen the RDNP offices is one more step along the road back.

Leslie Manigat says he is going to set forth the RDNP's position on the government's decision to reinstate the Constitution next 29 March. However, he does not wish to comment on the attitude of several of the deputies and senators issuing from the elections of 17 January 1988 who are asking to return to the legislature.

Manigat says he is still the RDNP's secretary general until the next convention in 1990. [passage omitted] Manigat says he will not return without guarantees in the midst of confusion. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Manigat] So yes, the RDNP is going to reopen its offices. [passage omitted] However, the return of Manigat has not yet been definitively decided and no date has been set for it because, as I said, Manigat is willing to return, but certain conditions must be met. There must be certain guarantees in order for him to return. You [nou] must work to get him back.

[Unidentified reporter] You spoke of the process for Manigat's returning to power. The other day, the congressional hearings of last 14 March showed that Manigat seems to have a lobby [preceding word in English] in the Congress that is pushing the movement for a referendum for Manigat, the same idea that the (?Christian Democratic Internationale) has been developing in Europe. Is the return being negotiated at a certain level in Washington? For example, with the Avril government?

[Manigat] Listen, listen, Manigat's return must take place in Haiti. An idea might be agreed on by international observers, who say: Ah, that might be a solution. However, if that (?solution) is decided on, it must be decided on by Haitians.

[Reporter] Mr Manigat, right now we are talking about the process of returning to Haiti. Would you be prepared to come participate in another election in Haiti? If elections were to be held more or less quickly and you did not have time to return, how would you feel about this?

[Manigat] We ourselves have done only one thing. I don't know of anything else that we have done. Everyone saying everything else must shoulder their own responsibility for it. We know we ourselves have done only one thing. We agree that people must (?become aware of the fact that) the country needs stability. It needs peace. Life must be respected so that the country can develop and people can work. We ourselves offer this. We say that the solution and change is us. We ourselves offer this. Solution and change is ourselves. That is the only thing we ourselves say. I know that we are reorganizing the RDNP. We are going to reopen the RDNP headquarters as, precisely, one more step along the road back.

We have said nothing else. Everyone who is associating us with themselves, who is trying to catch a ride on our coattails in order to (?associate their names) with us, is doing so upon their own initiative.

[Reporter] The Constitution was partially restored recently. What do you think of that?

[Manigat] That matter requires a big analysis. You would have to give me at least an hour for such an analysis. We will issue a text on 29 March on the occasion of the anniversary of the Constitution in which we will set forth our position clearly on this matter because we feel that there are many aspects to this matter, some of them very delicate. We must take this problem seriously because the country's future depends on this. The Constitution has been restablished, yes, but also 37 [figure as heard] articles of it have been suspended. Understand well! Oh yes, you have to see that!

Also, there are many things to be examined in a country. There are consequences to reestablishing a constitution. Many of (?these) must be analyzed seriously in the light of what the country needs. Understand this well! We ourselves do not take such matters lightly.

[Reporter] But the deputies and senators issuing from the 17 January elections claim to, with the return of the Constitution, have the right to hold sessions of the legislature. At the same time, here in Haiti, General Prosper Avril says that these men went and celebrated with Namphy when the Constitution was abolished and that they accepted positions as development advisors. What is your position on (?these people's) attitude?

[Manigat] I am not going to get into saying a little bit about something here and another little bit there. That is not my style. Everyone knows how I am. I am a serious person. I am not going to, just because such-and-such a thing is going on today, hasten to say such-and-such a thing today only to say such-and-such a thing contradicting it tomorrow! There are many aspects to the problem If you address one of them, you have to be ready to go into all the others too. We'll do it eventually. Don't you worry! [end recording]

We point out that in the interview he granted Radio Soleil, Manigat also mentioned people's catching a ride on his coattails. We must point out that yesterday, during the meeting the deputies and senators held at the Christopher Hotel, the group Racines—which had been out of the scene for some time now—reappeared, carrying placards calling for the return of Manigat.

Former Deputies, Senators Meet Again 21 Mar

FL2303202889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Former deputies and senators met for a second time yesterday, 21 March, at the Christopher Hotel. They rejected the government's decision to temporarily shelve 36 articles of the Constitution and declared that the 13 March decree is not at all in keeping with the nation's Constitution.

[Unidentified reporter] At Tuesday morning's meeting held at the Christopher Hotel, (?30) former senators and deputies who were working on the matter of the Constitution said they do not agree at all with Prosper Avril government's decision to put on ice 36 articles and they declared the 13 March 1989 decree unconstitutional. [passage omitted]

A member of the group called Racines was also sitting in the hall where the former legislators' meeting was going on. He was there to support them on the part of Racines and, especially, to call for the return of Leslie Manigat.

According to (Dady) [Jean], who heads the group Racines, Leslie Manigat is the constitutional president of Haiti and should take back his place after the Constitution is reinstated.

Tuesday morning, several dozen members of Racines demonstrated on the Petion-Ville road in the Bourdon section, in front of the [school run by the Soeurs de la] Charite de Saint Louis, for the return of Manigat. They were carrying placards with Manigat's picture on them and slogans that said that it was time for the country to get out from under Army boots, out from under a military government.

We must also point out that the RDNP [Manigat's political party] headquarters on Delmas Road is being repainted. Does this therefore mean that Leslie Manigat will be returning to Haiti in the near future?

[Announcer] Still in connection with this meeting by the deputies yesterday at the Christopher Hotel, we remind listeners that in his little chat over the national television station last Friday night, General Avril threw a dart—so to speak—at the deputies and senators, saying that they did nothing when the legislature was dissolved and that they accepted jobs as development advisors. The deputies responded to this yesterday, saying that while General Namphy was dissolving the legislature, Gen Avril was standing behind him with an Uzi in his hand.

17 Parliamentarians Attend

FL2303162689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Excerpt] As scheduled, the former members of the 44th legislature met Tuesday at the Christopher Hotel to argue in favor of a return to constitutional order. There were 17 parliamentarians present at this meeting. [passage omitted]

MIDH's Bazin Position on Political Situation

FL2303152589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 22 Mar 89

[By Morisson Charles]

[Excerpts] Marc Bazin, leader of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH], in a news conference held at his party headquarters in Turgeau [section of Port-au-Prince] today, Tuesday [21 March], set forth his position on Haiti's political juncture. [passage omitted]

[Begin Bazin recording] [Passage omitted] It could take dozens and dozens of years if, in a country such as ours, you wait until you have solved all problems before holding elections. There are many countries in the world where elections are held regularly despite the fact that there are hungry people and illiterates. [passage omitted]

The second part of the question—which in my opinion is as, if not even more, fundamental—is: What kind of economic policy should we have in Haiti so as to improve production and the producer's situation, so as to change the foundations of the social and human configuration of the nation? [passage omitted] [end recording]

According to the MIDH, given these conditions, the economic policy needed to improve the lot of the masses will take a quarter of a century [to bear fruit].

MIDH does not believe that anything can be done without the participation of all sectors, especially the Army, which must be integrated into the process as a basic sector in order to avoid clashes such as those that have occurred during the past 2 years.

[Begin Bazin recording] One of the problems we had during the past 2 years is that, if you think that you can come to power in Haiti right now, in 1989, without your having the total confidence of the military institution, you are obviously miscalculating. The idea that you can be more sly, that you are a master manipulator, that you can tool people around, is a miscalculation. We of the MIDH came to understand long ago that one of the basic requirements for change in Haiti is for everyone to lay all their cards on the table so that everyone will know who is doing what and who is benefiting from what.

You cannot govern in ambiguity with the Haitian Army in Haiti today. [end recording]

Regarding the malaise that appears to exist between the United States and Haiti in connection with aid, the MIDH asked that the two parties meet urgently to find a solution to the problem, to find out what should come first, elections or aid.

Thus, this depends on what the American big daddy decides. That is the MIDH's position, in comparison to many other positions taken by many political parties. Some want elections, others don't want elections, and others didn't but now do want elections.

Meanwhile, for their part, the Haitian people are going about their own business.

Party Urges Debate on Transitional Government

FL2303172889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] In view of the crisis in Haiti, it is useless to think about elections. Only a national debate could deliver Haiti from this crisis, said Dr Turneb Delpe, who is the

secretary general of the National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti, PNDPH. This national debate could be organized in such a manner as to include the participation of the Haitian people; would permit all the nation's sectors to recognize themselves; and would be based on a minimal program aimed at giving birth to a democratic transition preceding honest elections.

Mr Romain [not further identified] thinks that President Avril's latest interview over RTNH is, frankly, social, and links up with the demands of the popular sector. However, Mr Romain expressed certain reservations. Let's listen:

[Begin Romain recording, in progress] ...a model for a joint provisional government that could be called joint government in our mother tongue, Creole—and which we of the PNDPH call, in French, government of consensus [gouvernement de consensus] that we proposed on 31 October 1988. We don't think it is different from the other models for a government of coalition or unity government that certain other organizations are talking about.

This model of government, a joint government—or, in French, government of consensus—is not out of keeping with the transitional dispositions of the Constitution of 1987. That is also why the PNDPH is asking for a national debate where it would be able to explain in detail the proposal for a provisional government with the participation of the masses in which all the nation's sectors could recognize themselves and which would be based on a minimal program that would allow a democratic transition before we get to proper elections. [end recording]

Padrana Holds News Conference 21 Mar

FL2303163589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Constant D. Pongnon, president of Padrana [Democratic National Rally], held a news conference yesterday morning [21 March] at which he preached unity among the leaders. He said he was not a candidate for president. However, he would be quite pleased if he were to become senator. He also talked about his party, which he said played a big role in the struggle against Duvalier.

Pongnon, a lawyer, did not forget to throw darts, so to speak, at the former deputies and senators—who met for the second time yesterday. Colette Lespinasse attended that news conference, which was extremely lively.

[Lespinasse—live or recorded] [Passage omitted] Political leaders who have been silent for a good while are reappearing daily. There is much activity, right and left. News conferences are cropping up like mushrooms.

On Tuesday 21 March, it was the turn for Mr Constant D. Pongnon, leader of Padrana, which stands for the Democratic National Rally party. The goal of this news conference was to preach unity among all the leaders who call themselves democrats, because Mr Pongnon has noted that they have all been marching in place for the past 3 years—and no one has scored.

Several political leaders had come to hear Mr Pongnon's message—because that's the way things go in a family. It's your turn today and my turn tomorrow. We noticed, for example, the presence of Marc Bazin, leader of the MIDH, who didn't stay too long because he had his own news conference to hold. Several members of the National Concerted Action Front—such as Daniel Narcisse Dejean Belizaire, and so forth—were also present. And for 2 hours, Mr Pongnon harangued them—standing up and speaking Creole and speaking French, in order to get them to accept his message. [passage omitted] Mr Pongnon thinks General Avril is the last chance for the democrats, who have wasted too much time running around right and left.

Mr Pongnon spoke at length about Padrana, showing how his party has been active in the struggle ever since Duvalier ruled and following 7 February 1986. He also complimented Gen Avril, whom he feels has come forth to save the nation from General Namphy. For Mr Pongnon, we should not waste time thinking and arguing about whether the Constitution is or is not in effect. What is important is to forget a number of things that happened—and to consider the situation the way it is today and see what we are going to do with it. He didn't forget the deputies and senators from the 17 January elections who now want to return to the legislature. Listen to what he has to say about them:

[Begin Pongnon recording, in both French and Creole] The servants from the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies! I call them the servants—Namphy's servants, [words indistinct] not Manigat's. [passage omitted] What insolence! Right? What (?inelegance) on the part of men who call themselves intellectuals! [passage omitted] Any way you look at it, Prosper Avril really does have a democratic core in himself, you know? [passage omitted] They are children! [passage omitted] And who are these people? [laughs] Who are they? Xavier Saint-Louis, my former classmate at the law school! [pause] A big macoute! [audience laughs] [passage omitted] Who are they? Men who.... [changes thought] There are some among them who can barely write their names! [end recording]

Mr Pongnon thinks that the matter of the educational level required for a number of positions in the government has always been lacking in our constitutions, and he declares that he does not accept having anyone whose only diploma is a certificate of primary studies come and think that he can lead Mr Pongnon.

At the speakers' table was Mr Pongnon and diverse representatives of his party, (?which) he said has as yet never been registered because Mr Pongnon never accepted the law on political parties that was put out and has always remained true to himself.

Justice Department Announces Appointments

FL2303163989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] The Ministry of Information and Coordination announces that Mr (Jean J. Francois Venant) has been appointed, by presidential commission dated 20 March 1989, secretary general of the commission for supervising games of chance.

In the Justice Department, the following appointments have been been put into effect by presidential commission dated 10 March 1989:

Mr Ulrick Charles is appointed examining magistrate at the civil court of Port-au-Prince.

Mr Fritz Gabriel is appointed judge at the civil court of Saint-Marc, land section.

Mr Raphael Jean-Baptiste is appointed examining magistrate at the civil court of Saint-Marc.

Mr Joseph Agonie Charles is appointed deputy representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor to the civil court of Saint-Marc.

Mr Josue Delva is appointed surveyor in La Chappelle.

22d Company Transferred From Fort Dimanche

FL2303164889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Fort Dimanche was given another purpose last weekend, and the 22d Company has been moved. The 22d Company is now on Delmas 33, and is now known as the Military District of Delmas. The company will continue to fulfill its role of simple police company and auxiliary of the Justice Department, says Major Isidor Pongnon, the company commander. Listen:

[Begin recording] [Pongnon] I must tell you that soldiers are generally comfortable regardless of where they are. I have said this repeatedly, in several interviews that I have granted. [passage omitted] So I cannot say that I was more comfortable elsewhere. [passage omitted] I am obliged to do my job, regardless of where I may be—even if it were to be in a bed of thorns, in flames, wherever. The difference between here and where we were before is that it is not the same ambiance. I can tell you that when it rained, the mosquitos used to give us a hard time over there; but we got used to it. We had to. It was part of the job. [passage omitted]

We are equally comfortable in either place, because the work we have to do is the same. We have to provide the same service. [passage omitted] To prevent disorder, arrest criminals—the same mission, the police mission. Therefore, it's all the same to me.

[Reporter] Precisely, I was just going to ask you to define the true role of the 22d Company.

[Pongnon] Well, I have always said it—repeatedly, in several interviews. The 22d Company's mission is the same as that of any police post. [passage omitted] Now, certain individuals have tried to imply that we sometimes had a different mission, but since we never listen to crazies [laughs] we never paid attention.

[Reporter] That is what I was going to mention, Major Pongnon. We wonder if there will be the same structures, because people say that Fort Dimanche was often a place where people were tortured, and that many people would enter it and never be heard of again, and so forth. [passage omitted]

[Pongnon] No, let me repeat it for you. We are no longer Fort Dimanche. Fort Dimanche is in La Saline, and we are on Delmas 33. Our company has moved.

Let me explain something to you. Such people know full well that what they say is not true. When one is in a country so full of crazy people, when one has a serious mission that one fulfills—I mean, directing a police post, fulfilling a police mission, is serious stuff. One cannot be whimsical or emotional about it. The people who say this kind of thing have a good reason for saying it.

Let me tell you, I have had some experiences in Haiti! During the past 3 years, as soon as President Jean-Claude left, I saw a bunch of things happen because there was a sort of floodgate that opened, so to speak. And I saw that both people who claim to have been to school and people who have not been to school are equally crazy, a bunch of crazies who... [end recording]

That was Major Isidor Pongnon, commanding officer of the Military District of Delmas, whom we interviewed for you.

Peasants Ask Government To Satisfy Conditions

FL2303142589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Report from Hinche correspondent Moliere Richard]

[Text] On the occasion of the 2d anniversary of the congress of the Papaye Peasants Movement [MPP], delegates from different parts of the country met on 19 and 20 March 1989 to discuss the current juncture in Haiti and the evolution of the work that has been done over the past 2 years. Here is what the MPP put out for the press:

Regarding elections, the MPP says it notes that the election machinery is warming up in preparation for another rigged election. The MPP says: We are not against elections, but we don't think elections are going to solve the Haitian people's problems.

MPP adds that in order for us to participate in elections, the government must satisfy the following conditions: The government must arrest and try all macoute criminals, fire all macoute section chiefs, and give us Creole pigs. For this, we are going to wage a battle of long duration, until we get our Creole pigs and also to get the government to eliminate all marketplace taxes and all other illegal taxes, to get the price of merchandise lowered, to get surveyors to stop exploiting us, and to get them to return to us our documents without delay.

Also, the MPP denounces the maneuvers of the Avril government—as well as the U.S. State Department—who have said that many macoute section chiefs have been fired, whereas everyone knows full well that this is a lie. Avril assembled all the section chiefs at the National Palace in order to increase their power and to prepare election maneuvers.

Regarding the Radio Soleil business, the MPP note says that they support the entire Radio Soleil team, Father Hugo, and the entire Scheut Order in the efforts they are making to prevent the muzzling of the radio.

The MPP continues: We (?are struggling) to have Father Titide [affectionate nickname for Father Jean Bertrand Aristide] return to the Salesian Order to continue the work he was doing on the side of the popular church.

Regarding the flooding on La Gonave Island, the MPP says that it is not two or three bags of charity goods obtained for the section chiefs by the reinstated macoute magistrate that are going to solve the island's problems. On the contrary, that is adding insult to injury. The government must fix all the roads, set up dispensaries and schools, reforest the island, and organize agriculture on the island. That is what needs to be done.

We see that Haiti's society and all its institutions are traversing many crises. There is crisis within the Army, where the enlisted men don't trust the government. They prefer to take canters [generic name for any vessel carrying boat people to the United States clandestinely]. There is crisis within the macoute sector, with the Avril government in confrontation with General Namphy's former deputies and development advisors. There is crisis within the church, with the church hierarchy muzzling everyone speaking out in favor of the Haitian people, such as Father Titide and Radio Soleil. There is a crisis within the democratic sector, where there is division and more division. The MPP press release continues: We have now reached a crossroads, where all organizations that claim to be struggling in the interest of the Haitian people must set aside pride and get together in order to increase their strength, and struggle together to uproot all the old, vile systems (?of the reactionaries) and build the kind of society we want.

Jamaica

Manley Returns From North American Tour

FL2303190289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1850 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 23, CANA—Prime Minister Michael Manley returned home Wednesday night from a nine-day diplomatic offensive in the United States and Canada confident that he had laid "a solid basis" for future relations with Washington and Ottowa.

Manley declined to go into details on the outcome of his mission, but told reporters: "It really was very successful and very positive. The main thing is that we have laid a solid basis for the future."

Manley's remark largely echoed that of his foreign minister, David Coore, who had been on the first leg of the trip during which they had met with U.S. officials, including President George Bush, and Secreatry of State James Baker.

Independent analysts in both the U.S. and Canadian capitals and other cities visited by Manley agreed that the visit was successful.

Analysts in Kingston say that the positive foray by the new prime minister was important in setting the tone for the relationship with Jamaica's powerful North American neighbours.

"The success of Mr Manley's visit is very helpful to the momentum of his government," said Hector Wynter, the chairman of the Bustamante Institute of Public and International Affairs (BIPIA), a conservative think-tank here.

Manley's trip was largely aimed at removing doubts about his credibility, particularly in Washington, because of the experiences during his previous government of 1970's.

Relations between Kingston and Washington were strained because of Manley's relations with Cuba's Fidel Castro, his support for Third World causes, and his domestic economic policies.

Wynter said that it was significant that Manley had made "eye-to-eye contact" with Bush and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, "the two major partners in this hemisphere". Such face-to-face diplomacy could go a long way in helping to set the proper tone and more clearly define the type of relationship that Kingston wanted with those partners, Wynter suggested.

Wynter, like other analysts here, also says that Manley's apparently cordial meetings with the heads of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, with which Jamaica has economic support programmes, were also of significance.

His warm reception by Jamaicans living in the United States and Canada was also good public relations for his government and could also rebound to the benefit of the country, Wynter said.

Manley also discussed the issue of drug trafficking with U.S. and Canadian officials and promised his administrations full support in fighting the problem. "What he has done is help to remove some of the lingering doubts of his government's resolve to fight the drug issue," Whynter said.

Jamaica is a major producer of marijuana and in recent years and grown in importance as a transit point for cocaine from South America. [sentence as received]

Loan Agreement Signed With West Germany

FL2303122889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2023 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 22, CANA—Jamaica and West Germany have signed a U.S. 10.9 million dollar loan agreement for low-income housing here as part of Bonn's overall relief assistance to the island following the devastating hurricane that hit the island last September.

In all, West Germany pledged approximately U.S.54.5 million dollars of that was disbursed last year. [sentence as received] The last agreement allowing for the second tranche was signed Tuesday between the minister of development, planning and production, P.J. Patterson and German ambassador in Kingston, Rolf Enders.

The money is being channeled through the West German Loan Development Corporation and will allow Jamaica to meet foreign exchange and local currency costs for building materials for poor people's houses either damaged or destroyed during the hurricane.

The loan is for a period of 30 years with a 10-year grace period, at an interest of 0.75 per cent.

Montserrat

Government Suspends Licenses for Offshore Banks

FL2303140889 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Report by Richard Simon from Plymouth]

[Text] The Montserrat Government says it is suspending with immediate effect the issuing of licenses for the operation of offshore banks on the island. A statement issued in Plymouth says the island governor, Christopher Turner, has directed that the island's supervisory and legislative banking system be reviewed to provide for effective and internationally acceptable standards of offshore banking.

The statement comes amid investigations into Montserrat's banking system and the appointment by the British Government of a financial adviser to report on the development of Montserrat's potential as a reputable financial center. Three members of the Fraud Squad of Britain's Scotland Yard have been assisting local police in the investigation.

Trinidad and Tobago

Water, Sewarage Authority Workers End Strike

FL2303153789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1433 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 23, CANA—Transport workers at Trinidad and Tobago's Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) were back on the job Thursday, after a work boycott Wednesday, linked to a proposed cost-cutting restructuring of the state agency.

The entire transport division refused to drive their trucks all day Wednesday, demanding, through their unions, a meeting with Public Utilities Minister, Pamela Nicholson, and WASA board members over the restructuring proposals.

The workers resumed after Nicholson agreed to a meeting on the issue, official sources said Thursday.

At issue is a task force on WASA which looks at ways to "rationalise" the authority in the face of reduced government financial allocations. The plan includes recommendations to sever 260 workers in the first instance and 2,000 jobs in the longer term.

WASA workers met with the authority's chief executive officer Wednesday and afterward called in the news media to complain about a lack of job security. The employees are represented by the Public Services Association (PSA) and the National Union of Government and Federated Workers (NUGFW).

The NUGFW had last year predicted a cut of 2,200 jobs from the 5,000-strong WASA workforces in the face of cuts in subsidies to WASA by government, and drastic cuts in capital spending.

Costa Rica

Government To Request $81 Million for Refugees

PA2403022689 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Costa Rica will request $81 million to take care of its refugee population. The Costa Rican Government will go before the international community to request $81 million in aid to carry out three projects that will provide overall support to refugees and displaced persons.

Costa Rican Presidency Minister Gregorio Arias Sanchez said that the request will be made during the international conference on refugees and repatriated and displaced persons to be held in Guatemala this coming May. The meeting will be attended by the Central American countries, Mexico, Belize, the donor countries, the European Economic Community, and international humanitarian organizations.

The government says that 170,000 persons will benefit from the aid. The financing of $81 million will permit the Costa Rican Government to establish three projects to benefit no less than 170,000 persons. The projects will cover 100,000 refugees and displaced persons located near the northern border and in the Atlantic region. Jobs will be found for 40,000 refugees through industrial, handicrafts, farming, and agro-industrial projects. Also, the number of persons at the refugee camps will be reduced.

The new projects for refugees and displaced persons will cover a 2- to 3-year period, according to studies carried out in the three zones. The government believes that the existing peaceful climate in the region will encourage many refugees to return to their own countries. Costa Rica is willing to continue taking care of the refugees and others who currently live in its national territory, but it requires financial assistance to do so. Statistics show that the number of refugees entering the country is similar to the number that came 2 years ago. Thus far this year, 901 refugees have entered the country.

Luis Alberto Cordero, deputy Presidency minister, explained that the country is receiving less aid from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to take care of the refugees. He said that the government hopes that its request will be approved and that the international community will provide the funds necessary to improve the plight of the refugees and displaced persons.

El Salvador

CCE Provides 'Official Results' of Election

PA2303131689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0529 GMT 23 Mar 89

[All figures as received]

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Mar (AFP)—The Salvadoran Central Electoral Council (CCE) today proclaimed Alfredo Cristiani of the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) as Salvadoran president. Cristiani was proclaimed winner of the Salvadoran elections held on 19 March.

The official results released by the CCE are as follows:

ARENA	505,370 votes (53.82 percent)
Christian Democratic Party (PDC)	338,369 votes (36.03 percent)
National Conciliation Party (PCN)	38,218 votes (4.07 percent)
Democratic Convergence (CD)	35,642 votes (3.88 percent)
Authentic Christian Movement (MAC)	9,300 votes (0.9 percent)
Popular Union	4,609 votes (0.49 percent)
Democratic Action (AD)	4,363 votes (0.46 percent)
Renewal Action Party (PAR)	3,207 votes (0.34 percent)
Total votes	939,074 votes

There was a total of 5,375 contested votes, 48,843 null votes, and 7,226 abstentions.

Cristiani, who will take over the Presidency on 1 June for a 5-year period, and Francisco Merino, his running mate, were proclaimed president and vice president of El Salvador, respectively, during a ceremony at the Presidente Hotel in San Salvador.

During the ceremony, CCE President Ricardo Perdomo congratulated "the indisputable and unquestionable winners, Freddy Cristiani and Francisco Merino."

Perdomo, who represents the PDC at the Electoral Tribunal, admitted that "almost 50 percent of the Salvadoran people did not vote" because of the military offensive promoted by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

President-elect Cristiani said: "As we promised, we will rescue our nation," clearly referring to the serious problems the country is facing. El Salvador has been immersed in a 9-year civil war which has taken the lives of over 65,000 people.

Meanwhile, CD candidate Guillermo Ungo announced the withdrawal of his observers from the final vote count because "third place was stolen from us" through "the appearance of many null votes."

According to Ungo, both ARENA and the PDC conducted "a fraud" to favor the PCN—"to prevent the CD from obtaining the post as the third party representative at the CCE, as the law establishes."

Col Zepeda on Election 'Defeat' for Rebels

PA2303222689 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 22 Mar 89 pp 4, 19

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Colonel Juan Orlando Zepeda [commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade] has said that the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] suffered their greatest military and political defeat during the 19 March presidential elections.

Col Zepeda said the terrorists' promised "social explosion" was silenced by a people who took all sorts of risks to say yes to democracy.

Speaking at the closing ceremonies of a command course, Col Zepeda said that after this courageous civic and patriotic demonstration the subversive leaders should seriously reflect on the negative consequences they are bequeathing the nation because of their stubborness in wanting to gain power by force in a country that does not want to lose its freedom.

Col Zepeda added that the people do not want to fall into the clutches of international communism. There was no better way to show this than Sunday's elections, he said, when voters ranging from the humblest peasants to the most dynamic businessmen went to the polls.

Zepeda said, in view of these developments and according to the Constitution, that what the Armed Forces have to do is defend the people from the Marxist-Leninist aggression and energetically reinforce the democratization process now under way.

Col Zepeda said that it was impressive to see how the people, in remote villages of the eastern, western, and central sections of the country, went to vote, overcoming all sorts of difficulties, dodging bullets, bombs, and other types of attacks that the FMLN-FDR groups used in attempting to thwart the elections.

It did no good for the extremist leaders serving international communism, he stressed, to use all kinds of tricks to block the voters' paths. It was mainly the peasants who displayed the greatest courage in defying the FMLN. They defied the FMLN not merely as a useless provocation, but because they believed they were doing their civic duty.

Col Zepeda concluded by saying that in the extremists' ranks there is apparently all sorts of confusion in following the orders of those who risk nothing and want others to die for them. Because of this, the announced general insurrection did not take place. On the contrary, he said, those fighters, tired of hearing so many lies and false promises, decided not to follow orders.

UDN Leader Downplays ARENA Victory

PA2303171689 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Mario Aguinada, secretary general of the Nationalist Democratic Union [UDN], today said that based on the number of voters on 19 March, the ARENA actually won with only 27 percent of the total vote, considering there were 1.8 million Salvadoran voters this year compared with only 1.6 million last year:

[Begin recording] With that in mind, in strictly electoral terms, ARENA's victory is doubtful because it received a lower percentage of votes than that garnered by Napoleon Duarte in 1984. If we take into account election indices, ARENA's victory is not very [words indistinct] 54 percent because there were fewer voters. They would have no chance of winning with a larger number of voters. There is evidence of fraud. According to our estimates, no more than 800,000 voters participated. [end recording]

UDN Secretary General Aguinada believes Alfredo Cristiani's triumph uncovered a polarization that could lead to an intensification of violence:

[Begin recording] We believe the FMLN achieved its objectives, which did not include reducing the number of votes for the CD. (?Nobody hurts) friends simply to hurt others.

Its objectives were: First, to defeat an 8-year old U.S. policy. What does this boil down to? Preventing a restructuring of the counterinsurgency project, because the United States has been investing in Fidel Chavez Mena. Second, to defeat the PDC and worsen its internal decomposition. Third, to confront ARENA through forceful means. This was very clear.

The FMLN did not aim to weaken the CD. Doubts about this were dissipated. The issue now is not a struggle to establish a moderate, reformist, democratic, and Christian government. What is involved now is a clash between [words indistinct] in which the main characters of the conflict are evident: On one side is the oligarchy represented by ARENA, which brought about the war and has failed to stop it after 8 years—and must now face the war they created and its current consequences. [end recording]

[Reporter] However, Aguinada added, the UDN will continue to call for an end to the war through negotiated political means; Salvadoran sectors should now be involved in this task.

Rebel Radio Warns of 'Atrocious Repression'

PA2403034389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Station commentary; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...national territory was the scene of bloody fighting successfully waged in broad daylight by the FMLN against the Armed Forces' land and air offensives. The national transportation stoppage was very effective, as reported by all international observers, including all those who were expressly invited by the government to take full propaganda advantage of the election process rather than to monitor the event.

The FMLN military forces supported the people's rejection of another farce denying the people's legitimate right to turn the elections [words indistinct]. The FMLN was used as an excuse for the abstention of hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans from the election process, who were actually subjected to psychological warfare to pressure them into voting.

Of the 1.8 million registered voters, less than 50 percent went to the polls, and a high number of them voided their votes. It was confirmed that there were places where the number of null votes exceeded the number of valid votes obtained by the party that claimed victory.

Compared with previous elections, there was a noticeable reduction in the number of votes for ARENA and an even greater reduction in the number of votes for the PDC. [Words indistinct] abstention rate and a relative increase in the number of null votes. The CCE was absent from the computer center on the night of 19 March because it was called to the Presidential Palace, where the PDC and the PCN colluded to create a fraud against the CD.

The fraud consisted of an agreement to split the null votes and to overpower the third-ranking contender [words indistinct] the polls and ARENA, which had [word indistinct] the CD and thereby concealed the abstention rate and the large number of null votes. This confirms the FMLN's contention that by having corrupt officials and the Army intervene in the elections, there could be no freedom or honesty in the elections. Suffice it to say that the number of people who voted were a minority; therefore, those who voted for ARENA were a minority within a minority.

The [words indistinct] colonels who support ARENA became bold in light of their party's imminent victory. Before, during, and after the elections they gave free license to their satanic instincts by attacking, murdering, seizing, and indiscriminately arresting people on the very day of the elections, as happened in San Francisco Javier and Carolina, where the Air Force bombarded, launched rockets against, and machinegunned the civilian population. As we have reported, houses were destroyed and many people were injured everywhere.

Three journalists were murdered in different places by troops led by well-known ARENA members. Several cars were machinegunned, and this was blamed on the FMLN. The Armed Forces later increased hostilities against popular organizations, as demonstrated by the arrest of several members of the [words indistinct] and by the military's attempt to cordon off the university and the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] headquarters.

The war-lovers today control all the power, making it more urgent and necessary to raise the banner of peace, to end repression, and to deepen the struggle for democracy and social justice. ARENA's victory was meager and marks the culmination of the defeat of the U.S. counterinsurgency plan, because the United States obviously was unable to manipulate a political victory. Now ARENA will have more [words indistinct] than the PDC had with Duarte in order to carry out genocide. The colonels' bloodthirsty impulses will not [word indistinct] the extent of their desires, because certain conditions are determining factors in shaping reality.

Latin America's critical social problems urgently require political forces capable of presenting alternatives for economic and social development. Everyone knows that ARENA represents the oligarchy's interests. The international community's reaction to the news of ARENA's victory has therefore been reserved. The only government that has rushed to congratulate [Alfredo] Cristiani is, understandably, Taiwan. He was later congratulated by the dictator Pinochet.

Democratic countries, and even the United States, will not support a rash plan that will result in a crisis like the one that forced the United States to instigate a reorganization process in 1969 that culminated in a coup against Colonel Carlos Humberto Romero. The situation was unbearable because the country was internationally discredited.

Cristiani's speech, in which he said that a military effort to ensure peace is necessary and possible before negotiating with the FMLN, can clearly be interpreted as announcing ARENA's intentions to allow atrocious repression against the people's movement. This will remain a pipe dream, because such a confrontation with us would be tantamount to suicide.

The democratic efforts exerted by Jose Napoleon Duarte and his party could not prevent the massacres and [words indistinct], yet ARENA is again closing its eyes to a new genocide. The result of the elections, for a war within a war, has been the triumph of an even weaker government that will be more restricted politically and at odds with a world moving toward political solutions through agreements and a nation demanding peace, justice, and democracy. The FMLN proposal issued in January is still viable and transcends the superficiality of an election campaign. All the social groups must close ranks and mobilize themselves to attain peace and a truly democratic system.

Evaluation of Duarte's Health Continues

PA2403034889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] President Jose Napoleon Duarte today will undergo medical tests at Walter Reed Hospital following a quiet night, a spokesman for the U.S. Army hospital has announced.

Duarte, who suffers from intestinal and liver cancer, was admitted to Walter Reed Army Hospital, on the outskirts of Washington D.C., on Wednesday. Doctors have

been evaluating his condition before conducting some tests. The doctors have stated that Duarte was supposed to enter the hospital earlier but chose to remain in El Salvador until the presidential elections ended this past Sunday, when his party, the PDC, suffered a crushing defeat.

Duarte's personal physician has said that the medical center will evaluate the president's treatment program and will carry out clinical tests that will determine whether the president will undergo an eighth chemotherapy session. He received his latest chemotherapy treatment a few days ago in San Salvador.

7 Killed in FMLN-Army Clashes 23 Mar

PA2403042189 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0325 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] As a result of clashes between the Armed Forces and the FMLN in various parts of the country today, seven persons were killed and another five were wounded.

Military sources have reported the deaths of three 1st Brigade soldiers who were killed during a guerrilla attack on El Roblar Military Base on the slopes of Guazapa Hill.

Four guerrillas were killed in a surprise attack by Military Detachment No 4 units near San Isidro, Morazan Department.

In Ozatlan, Usulutan Department, two soldiers and three rebels were wounded in fighting.

Guerrilla columns dynamited a train engine in Tecolucas, causing only property damage.

Guatemala

Cerezo Not To Reveal Names of JJ Members

PA2303040789 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 20 Mar 89 p 4

[Text] Although Guatemalan President Cerezo announced that the names of the members of the clandestine Jaguar Justice group, the JJ, would be revealed before Holy Week, Interior Minister Roberto Valle Valdizan on 20 March said that the president's remarks and those of the deputy interior minister have been misconstrued. Valle said: "The government never said that it would reveal the names of the JJ members. This conclusion was drawn from a misinterpretation of remarks by Deputy Interior Minister Carlos Morales Villatoro."

Despite Valle's assertion, it should be kept in mind that President Cerezo recently announced that the JJ is made up of approximately 20 organizations, some of which have been basking in JJ's publicity.

Cerezo had said that the mystery of the JJ would soon be dispelled because the government would reveal the names of the group's members, and the deputy minister endorsed Cerezo's remarks. However, Valle now says that the JJ will be around for quite some time.

The minister added: "The remarks were misconstrued. I have listened to recordings of these remarks and it was never said that the names of the group's members would soon be disclosed."

He remarked that a thorough investigation is being conducted into the violent acts attributed to this clandestine group.

Valle said: "We have plenty of clues implicating the JJ, but we need more information. We intend to resolve each and every case so that those responsible for such actions can be handed over to the appropriate authorities. The recent acts of violence have increased our concern. This is why we have devoted our best efforts to this task. We hope to soon have full reports. We cannot, however, give any more information at this time."

Foreign Minister on Salvadoran Vote 'Triumph'

PA2403030789 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 20 Mar 89 p 4

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Rafael Palencia, speaking on behalf of the government, said the victory achieved by the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] in El Salvador represents a triumph for the people because the democratic process in this neighboring country has been reinforced.

In referring to the elections, Palencia said: "Although we have not yet received the official results from our observers, we learned of the election results through press reports. Thus far, we can say that democracy has emerged the winner."

Reports from San Salvador say ARENA candidate Alfredo Cristiani won over Cristian Democratic Party candidate Fidel Chavez Mena. This result ensures enhanced control and power for the ultraright-wing ARENA.

"We believe that if ARENA's victory is confirmed, the Salvadoran people will be the true winners, because the election process reinforces and guarantees the democratic process that the friendly Salvadoran people have established," Palencia said.

Minister Palencia also said that Specific Affairs Minister Sara Mishaan Rossell and other government representatives traveled to San Salvador as election observers. Upon their return, they will present a detailed report.

The minister said in conclusion: "We will wait for the observers' report, which will serve as the basis for an official statement. We can say in the meantime, however, that yesterday's elections and the way they were conducted have reinforced the Salvadoran democratic process."

URNG Claims 38 Army Casualties in Clashes

PA2303230089 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Mar 89 p 8

[Text] Two helicopters were damaged and the Guatemalan Army sustained 38 casualties as the result of several clashes between insurgents and soldiers in recent days in the northwestern part of the country, according to a CERIGUA news agency telex sent to our offices.

The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] reported that on 12 March its forces attacked the military base in San Juan, Dolores Municipality, Peten Department. "The government forces sustained 11 casualties in this encounter," according to the report.

CERIGUA reported that government forces also sustained casualties as the result of clashes in Nebaj and Ixcan municipalities, Caba, Amacchel, Juil, Vitzach, and Azcumbal villages, and in the area of the Pueblo Nuevo, Santo Tomas, San Lucas, and Las Palmas farms.

Honduras

Options To Prevent Lempira Devaluation Cited

PA2003172989 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 14 Mar 89 p 9

[Text] The Honduran Government has appropriate options to prevent a devaluation of the currency, which international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund [IMF], World Bank, and Agency for International Development (AID), are strongly pressuring the country to do.

Proof that these organizations are pressuring Honduras is that all of them coincide in suggesting that the level of CETRA [expansion unknown] granted to exporters be increased from the current 40 percent to 75 percent.

Honduras' exports currently total $1 billion and the government directly receives $600 million, because the remaining $400 million goes to exporters through Certificates With Option for Foreign Exchange [Certificados con Opcion a Divisas]. The government spends that $600 million to import oil derivatives, medicine, powdered milk, and raw materials.

Were the government to agree to bring the level of CETRA to 75 percent, it would only have $250 million for its most basic imports, meaning only having enough to purchase fuel, medicine, and nothing else. What about the rest?

On this matter, Honduras Central Bank President Gonzalo Carias Pineda ironically noted a few days ago: "If these requests do not entail a devaluation, then what are they?"

An EL HERALDO probe indicates that the government intends to stand firm regarding the pressures to devalue, although some local economic groups favor the idea. Therefore, the government's economic team has several options. However, they must be implemented with political sense and firmness.

One option calls for the reduction of the fiscal deficit, which officially totaled 635.7 million lempiras as of 31 December 1988 (which increased another 5 million lempiras when the government earmarked unappropriated national budget funds to pay for wage increases obtained by the Trade Union of Medical, Hospital, and Related Workers through pressure).

This measure should decrease public expenditures by 150 million lempiras this year alone, an extreme step regarded as rather unlikely.

There should be a total ban on any kind of items not needed by the economy, until the economy gains strength again and the deficit achieves manageable limits that the Central Bank can finance.

Public expenditures must be lowered to the same level as revenues.

The foreign debt must be readjusted, especially the foreign debt contracted with multinational organizations such as the World Bank, IMF, AID, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

A large part of the foreign credit must be spent on agricultural export activities to generate foreign exchange.

However, the decision to avoid devaluation must be made at a political level. This is not a theoretical matter or one that must be publicly announced, but one that must be implemented.

When queried about the possibility the government may not implement those measures soon, EL HERALDO's sources declined to comment.

Nicaragua

No Comment on Reported U.S. Contra Aid Plans

PA2403040289 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0324 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Managua, 23 Mar (REUTER)—The Nicaraguan Government today declined comment on reports from Washington that the Bush administration has agreed with Democratic lawmakers to grant more aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

When questioned about this by REUTER, Information and Press Minister Manuel Espinoza said: "I cannot tell you anything yet because we are still gathering information."

The high-ranking official said that he had to wait for further information from Washington to answer questions in this regard.

The Easter holidays and the resulting inactivity in government offices prevented REUTER from polling the Sandinist authorities on the announcement made in Washington.

An official of the U.S. House of Representatives announced in Washington that the Democratic lawmakers and the Bush administration had worked out an agreement to grant more humanitarian assistance to the contras and that only a go-ahead signal from the White House was lacking.

The current aid package for the contras, who rose up against the Sandinist government 8 years ago, will expire at the end of this month.

The new aid agreement, which is expected to be in the amount of $4.5 million monthly, will allow the distribution of humanitarian aid until the end of next February.

The funds will be used to relocate and repatriate the 12,000 contras who are currently in Honduras.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has asked President Bush to respect the agreement signed last month in El Salvador by the five Central American presidents, which calls for the contras' demobilization in exchange for the adoption of democratization measures in Nicaragua.

Ortega said last week at a meeting with opposition politicians that any U.S. aid to the contras would conflict with the El Salvador agreement.

The only assistance allowed in the document signed by the Central American presidents is assistance to help dismantle the contra camps and to transfer the rebels to Nicaragua or some other place outside Honduras.

Editorial on Released Prisoners, 'Old Wounds'

PA2303185189 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Mar 89 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "No Place for Opening Old Wounds"]

[Text] Following the release yesterday morning of the former Somozist guards, some individuals who were not exactly blind instruments of the dictatorship and who acted against the people fully aware of their actions made some bold statements against the revolutionary power that were full of hatred, resentment, and defiance.

It is possible that, for some of these individuals, nearly 10 years of prison was not enough time to reflect on the seriousness of the damage they did to Nicaragua. It is also possible some politicians may try and recruit them as shock troops for their scraggy gatherings or push them to join what is left of the defeated National Guard in Honduras. The citizens are right in assuming a calm but firm and vigilant attitude following their release.

We have said all along that the pardons subject the people to the toughest test they have ever had to endure. The open wounds left by Somozism are much too fresh and perhaps will never heal. These wounds have been made worse by the Bush administration's continued insistence on maintaining the contra flame of war. However, this monumental challenge, taken up with strength and grief by Nicaraguans for the sake of peace, must also obligate the former guards, especially their relatives.

There is no one better than the former guards' fathers, wives, and children, who have remained in the country during all these years of revolution, to persuade them that the times of the Special Brigade Against Assault, Terrorism, and Subversion and the Basic Infantry Training School against defenseless citizens have been buried forever. These former guards should also take advantage of the opportunity given them by society to start afresh, making an honest living here or somewhere else. There is no other way out.

During recent years, 2,188 former guards have received pardons, and no cases of hostility by the population against those people are known. Those who left yesterday, together with their families, will determine with their behavior the attitudes the population will assume toward them. This people has already lived through too much tragedy as a result of aggression to know that old wounds that spoil what is most sacred to the Nicaraguan family should not be opened.

Coffee Growers' 'Grave' Situation Noted

PA2403005289 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] The farmers' plight is distressing. Some of them do not have even enough money to meet 1 week's payroll. ENCAFE [Nicaraguan Coffee Enterprise] stopped issuing "readjustment" checks promised to be sent early this month and, as a result, the coffee growers who have not yet made arrangements to obtain their qualifications from the banks do not have money to pay for cultivation expenses. ENCAFE refused to hand over the "reliquidation" ["reliquidacion"] checks today, alleging that the National Development Bank does not have the assets to outlay large sums of money. If we consider that compounding this problem is the widespread coffee rust and coffee-plant borer problem, it is obvious that the coffee industry is about "done in" and that the "Africanization" of the economy is a specter overtaking us with gigantic strides, as several coffee growers have said.

Sugarcane farmers are just as bad off or worse. The San Antonio sugar mill did not deliver checks this week.

The general outcry is: What is happening? The National Bank has no cordobas and another devaluation is imminent through the issuance of new paper money.

The eastern zone coffee growers are very alarmed because the National Development Bank is not cashing their ENCAFE checks worth millions of cordobas. These checks are necessary to meet payrolls, but today they bounced at teller's windows.

Silvio Acevedo, vice president of that zone's Coffee Growers Federation, said that ENCAFE began handing out the checks last Monday to pay for "reliquidations," money that had been held for 3 months. The coffee grower said that when he presented the check at the National Bank of Jinotepe, the bank said it could not be cashed.

On a second visit to the bank, he was told that the Central Bank had given orders not to cash the ENCAFE checks.

"The situation is grave for all coffee growers in the region. We are completely bankrupt, without money and without hope for improvement," Silvio Acevedo said, making public the serious situation the industry is in.

The Coffee Growers Federation includes associations based in Masatepe, Jinotepe, and Diriamba. Acevedo said that the Masaya and Granada coffee growers are experiencing a similar situation.

Approximately 20 days ago, ENCAFE announced that it would begin paying the "reliquidations" throughout the country.

ENCAFE's debt throughout the country is approximately 78 billion cordobas, but a large amount of that money will stay at the National Bank to meet payments guaranteed by the banks.

Acevedo said that this situation also affects his mother because she is also a coffee grower. Their two checks amount to approximately 36 million cordobas.

Panama

Ritter on State Department Handling of Funds

PA2403000489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2312 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter by unidentified reporter in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ritter] They have no basis for their actions, least of all concerning the funds the United States has frozen, but it is true that Panamanians have found ways to minimize the effects of the aggression in other cases. The Housing Ministry and the Savings Board began housing construction programs with funds obtained from other countries. Ours is obviously a slow recovery process, because most of our funds are still in the United States; this has prevented our banking system from fully resuming operations.

The most deplorable thing in this whole affair is that as a result of recent reports revealed in the United States concerning the destination of those funds—in other words, the infamous way in which those funds have been spent—we have gone beyond what we would call an illegal withholding of funds to an immoral and incorrect expenditure of those funds.

[Reporter] Do you have evidence proving this?

[Ritter] Yes. The investigation carried out in the United States by a U.S. Government agency proves that there is a shortfall. We had previously.... [Ritter changes thought] A U.S. television network had previously—approximately 8 months ago—conducted an independent investigation, and the shortfall that came to light amounted to approximately $750,000. Panamanian Embassy officials in the United States—in other words, officials from the embassy recognized by the United States as the Panamanian Embassy—stated that they had to pay for the bureaucracy that they maintain in the United States, referring to the embassy and the consulates that were closed down.

This immense bureaucracy is being paid for with the withheld funds. The embassy's maintenance costs are immense. The personnel working there are being paid with the withheld funds, and this is even acknowledged by U.S. State Department officials, who say that this is justified because Mr Delvalle's government is authorizing the expenses incurred by the embassy.

Ritter Reiterates 'Independent' Policy Stances

PA2303152389 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Mar 89 pp 8, 18

[Text] During a brief interview with the National Information System, Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter said Panama's position at the United Nations is dictated by an independent and nonaligned foreign policy and should not be interpreted as a reaction to the problems Panama is having with the United States.

The Panamanian foreign minister said Panama participates in the Nonaligned Movement and coordinates its efforts with that movement and with Latin American and Caribbean groups.

He said that recently in Geneva, Panama contributed with other Latin American countries in finding a solution to the problem the United States created there when it tried to have the Human Rights Commission condemn

Cuba for violating human rights in spite of the fact a report issued by the commission itself did not provide grounds to support such an accusation.

With much independence, Panama said it would act justly, based on the report. Our country also took the opportunity to lament the fact that the death penalty exists in Cuba, even though it is not being applied right now. Panama has always fought against this penalty at all international forums.

Therefore, Panama's position is very independent. It will defend a country on any issue for which that country must be justly defended, but it will also reproach the same country on any issue involving human rights for which that country must be justly reproached.

This Panamanian policy has earned respect for Panama, because it makes it clear that this is not a submissive country that will vote according to how a master or a country with influence wants it to vote, but rather is a country that maintains a position of absolute and total independence.

If anyone were to know ahead of time how Panama is to vote, it would be because that person has analyzed Panama's foreign policy and knows that Panama maintains its positions—not because that person has been given information or because a foreign power or any other nation has asked or ordered us to vote in any particular way, Ritter said.

Ritter noted that because of this respect Panama has earned, the United Nations, in reaching a victory in the decolonization struggle, selected Panama as one of the countries that will send military observers to the Namibian independence process, despite the opposition of a power that is a permanent member of the UN Security Council. The United Nations has approved of the Panama Defense Forces as an observer in the Namibia independence process.

Ritter said Panama will not change its foreign policy.

Regarding Panama's situation in the Group of Eight and the Contadora Group, the use of Panamanian funds that supposedly were frozen, and other illegal actions committed against the country, Ritter said Panama continues assisting the Group of Eight meetings, as it did recently in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where it exchanged points of view with sectors such as the EC.

With the Group of Eight, Panama discussed the problem of the foreign debt, which Panama has viewed for a long time as unpayable, a position it will use as a premise in meetings on the issue.

Panama maintains cordial relations with the other seven members of this group; Panama does not participate actively within the group only when special decisions are to be adopted. This situation is to be corrected once the election process in Panama concludes.

Regarding Contadora, the minister said that organization has already fulfilled its mission and that its opinion had weight when it was necessary.

Ritter said George Bush's government has maintained the position against Panama and, using its power against the weak, has permitted all sorts of offenses against the country.

Noriega: FDP Views Elections 'Dispassionately'

PA2303132989 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 22 Mar 89 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega said yesterday the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] view the upcoming elections "dispassionately."

The political situation is developing according to the Electoral Tribunal's established timetable, Noriega said, going on to compare the current election campaign to a sort of political carnival.

"We have a High Street and a Down Street [referring to Las Tablas town carnival], and in May we shall see which of the two streets will win," the FDP commander said.

Manuel Antonio Noriega also mentioned the need to "break away from traditional structures that prevent Panama from keeping up to date."

Noriega explained that each period has had its motivation at its own moment and that the next 5-year presidential term will also have its motivation, because there are new groups participating in politics, such as the trade unions and representatives of other peoples' forces, which currently have a determining role in seeking the people's welfare.

Solis Palma on Promissory Notes Plans

PA2303140689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Mar

[Text] The Panamanian Government yesterday initiated serious talks with the Banking Commission, banks, and financial agencies on cashing the promissory notes delivered to public employees. These are remarks on the talks by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, exclusively for this station:

[Begin recording] [Solis] No final agreement has yet been reached. We are still talking. We want the Banking Commission to demand that banks return frozen funds to the financial agencies so those agencies can purchase

the promissory notes. In addition, we will have to talk with the financial agencies later, because the rate of interest they charge on loans is too high considering there will be monthly drawings and all the promissory notes will be redeemed within 9 months. Nonetheless, we are still in the first stage: having the banks return frozen funds to financial agencies so the financial agencies can operate.

[Reporter] What is the purpose of your talks with the public sector?

[Solis] To orient them, tell them the truth, enlighten them about the good and the bad aspects of the process, and encourage them to weigh these aspects. We want to create an awareness, because we believe there can be no democracy without people being aware. [end recording]

Armed Men Attack PDC Center in Arraijan

PA2303204789 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1330 GMT 23 Mar 89

[From the "Voice of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance" program hosted by Christian Democratic legislator Guillermo Cochez—live]

[Text] [Cochez] Here with us is Jose Rafael Gil, Panamanian Christian Democratic Party [PDC] alternate legislator candidate for Arraijan District. He will tell us what happened at the PDC office in Arraijan last night:

[Gil] Good morning, listeners. At 0300 today, armed groups working for—this time I will mention names—Rigoberto Paredes [progovernment Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator] arrived at the Arraijan PDC office and destroyed the doors of our building. They entered our office, destroyed our political publicity papers, set the building on fire, took part of the money we collected during our great PDC sale, and took our typewriters and mimeograph machines.

This time we mention names, because there are many witnesses who saw what happened. The men made a lot of noise. They had been placing political posters on the streets earlier, so people identified the beige car of [words indistinct] who usually places political posters at night in Arraijan.

We also want to say that all these actions of violence and intimidation conducted by the progovernment groups are merely a demonstration of their desperation, because they have not found strong support from any Arraijan community. Those actions of intimidation include persecution of our legislative candidate Lenin Sucre, whose candidacy is being contested at the Electoral Tribunal. A few days ago, somebody tried to run him down with a truck.

We will not take reprisals for the attack on our office last night, because we are peaceful people. We have the most effective weapon against the dictatorship, which is our followers' votes. We are working for the 7 May elections. However, we want to tell the Panamanian people and the Arraijan residents that the actions conducted by progovernment groups and Rigoberto Paredes' groups are often headed by current Arraijan Mayor Alberto Gonzalez.

[Cochez] How did you get so many details about the groups that participated in the attack? How could people identify them?

[Gil] As I told you, the men were near the church placing posters and flags on the poles. They were making a lot of noise with their hammers, and people there know there are problems everytime those men go out on the streets.

When the men entered our building, people living near our office came out and started yelling and telling the men to go. That is when they saw the men, identified them, and even wrote down license plate numbers, not only of the [word indistinct] but of other vehicles as well.

[Cochez] I imagine you will report this case to the Electoral Tribunal [TEP] attorney general?

[Gil] Undoubtedly, Willy. We will go to the TEP attorney general even if it is in vain. At least we will leave evidence of the attack carried out in Arraijan last night.

[Cochez] Major Manuel Sieiro, chief of the Arraijan military zone, has his headquarters in Chorrera. How far is the PDC office from the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] headquarters in Arraijan? What did the FDP do to prevent those violent, subversive, and seditious actions—those were truly seditious actions—that occurred early this morning? What has the FDP done during previous attacks? As you have told me before, municipal and civilian officials carry guns [words indistinct]. What has the FDP done to prevent those attacks, since the FDP should protect citizens and their property?

[Gil] Our office is one block from the FDP headquarters in Arraijan. Although the firemen came in their cars with their sirens on to put out the fire, the FDP members never came to see what was going on. I left Arraijan a while ago, and the FDP members had not yet shown up to see what had happened.

Nothing has been done regarding the armed men, including municipal and other government officials who participated in the attack. They remain unpunished. Armed groups are often headed by Arraijan Mayor Alberto Gonzalez. I make Rigoberto Paredes and Gonzalez responsible for anything that may happen to any PDC member in Arraijan. We have already been threatened. We are not afraid. We are peaceful and have the support of the Arraijan people, who will confirm their 1984 vote in these elections.

[Cochez] Thank you very much, Jose Rafael.

Argentina

Seineldin Comrades Warn of 'Civil War'

PY2303231289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1152 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Mar (NA)—A report attributed to officers close to detained Colonel Ali Seineldin states that "shocking events such as the one in La Tablada" will be repeated soon, and that a civil war "may occur." The report also states that "Menem and Caceres," referring to Justicialist Party candidate Carlos Menem and II Army Corps Commander Isidro Caceres, "may be killed."

The document, written in an apocalyptic tone, points out that the polls show that "Menem will be the next president; that he will take over a country in ruins, subject to a wild opposition and to international criticism. Only the revival of a nationalistic spirit, supported by the Church, can save the Argentines from the final cataclysm."

The report, which consists of one page with seven items, was distributed today in several Army units and in some General Staff offices.

Army sources deemed the report "as nothing but a pamphlet." The sources added: "These apocalyptical prognostics are intended to create divisions within the Army."

The report also states: "The direct offenses against the Armed Forces, especially against the Army, against the Justicialist Party, against the police, and against the security forces, and the indirect offenses against the Church will increase in the pursuit of a redeeming coup." [sentence as received]

Item four of the report refers to the Coordinadora branch of the Radical Party: "The suspension of the elections or pacts aimed at perpetuating the ruling party in office are inescapable priorities for the Coordinadora."

The report ends with a short analysis of what will happen to the country if one or the other presidential candidate wins: If Menem wins, "the country will be destroyed." If Angeloz wins, the country will be in "chaos." And "it is utopian" to even think that Alsogaray could possibly win.

Army Chief Criticizes 'Psychological Campaign'

PY2203181489 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Army Chief of Staff General Francisco Gassino has sent the Army a radio message which was released to the public a few minutes ago. In the message, Gassino states that unknown sectors are carrying out a psychological campaign to make the Army seem to be in a state of crisis or conflict, thus stimulating—through crafty manipulations—certain attitudes and creating rumors in conflict with our feelings, mission, and activities.

Gassino said that there are not internal conflicting groups in the higher commands. Different criteria, as is logical, do exist, and they are a natural thing within the force, he said. However, some media are distorting this fact with lies, Gen Gassino said.

Gassino's message states that any psychological maneuver originated by any national sector aimed at distorting the clear and honorable objectives of the force goes against the firm decision of all the Army members to continue complying with their duties in defense of the style of life freely chosen by our society and of the federal representative republican system established by our Constitution. [passage omitted]

State Enterprise Purchases Soviet Equipment

PY2203180789 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1134 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (DYN)—The State Gas Corporation has reported that two gas-run turbo-compressors were purchased from the USSR. The equipment, which has already arrived in the country, is designed for La Sortija compressor plant, which is being built in Coronel Pringles District, Buenos Aires Province.

The turbines, with 9,313 horsepower each, will contribute to increasing the flow capacity of the last section of the General San Martin and Cerri-General gas pipelines that supply gas to Buenos Aires Province.

It has been reported that the equipment, which was placed on two heavy-duty trucks, is on its way to the Sortija plant. This equipment will begin operations in May, just when the gas demand starts to increase considerably due to the low temperatures during winter.

Paraguayan Foreign Minister Arrives

PY2303002489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2026 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (TELAM)—Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana has termed the democratic process in his country "firm." He added that "the necessary steps are being taken to comply with the proclamation of 3 February" and that the military movement that ousted General Stroessner "is a revolution for and by democracy."

The Paraguayan foreign minister arrived this afternoon at the military sector of the metropolitan airport, where he was welcomed by his Argentine counterpart, Dante Caputo. Argana told journalists that he felt "an extraordinary and sincere excitement" over his presence in Argentina. He also pointed out that Argentina was the first country to recognize the new Paraguayan Government, for which he expressed thanks.

He explained that Argentine Ambassador to Paraguay Raul Quijano delivered a note recognizing the government of General Andres Rodriguez and expressing "particularly encouraging words of faith and hope for democracy in Paraguay." The words were dictated by President Alfonsin himself, and this "is something unusual in the diplomatic world," he said.

Argana said that there is "a major difference" between the current government of his country and General Stroessner's government "because," he explained, "we changed an autocratic system into a system that is working for democracy and for a multiparty system." As an example, he mentioned the reopening of the newspaper ABC COLOR, which was closed 5 years ago by the regime of the ousted dictator.

Asked about the cases of the Bianco and Miara youths, who are children of persons reported missing during the previous Argentine military regime and who are now in Paraguay, he replied that their return to their legitimate home "will be accomplished" and that "the Paraguayan Government and courts are fully willing to grant the demands" of the children's biological relatives.

He stressed that when he was president of the Supreme Court "a decision was made to extradite" the children and that an unconstitutional act by the attorney general of the previous regime blocked their return to Argentina.

In response to another question, Argana said that the regime of General Alfredo Stroessner "was on obstacle to strengthening bilateral relations." He said that Stroessner's government "failed to understand the need for good relations."

He said that once that obstacle was overcome, Argentine-Paraguayan relations are now "smooth and highly stimulating."

Dante Caputo said that the visit by the Paraguayan foreign minister is "a very important milestone." Caputo called "for a Paraguay united to Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil," and he added that "conditions are appropriate for that purpose."

Caputo said that the date for a meeting between President Andres Rodriguez and Raul Alfonsin has not yet been set, but said that "both Foreign Ministries want to make progress toward that meeting."

Asked about the possibility that Argentina may increase its energy purchases from Paraguay, Caputo said he will analyze the issue with his Paraguayan counterpart.

CNEA Head To Dedicate Reactor in Algeria

PY2303013089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1450 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA)—National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEA) President Ema Perez Ferreira will travel to Algeria next week to dedicate a research nuclear reactor, which was entirely built by Argentina, in line with the government's policy for exporting this sensitive technology.

Perez Ferreira will represent President Alfonsin on 2 April at the dedication of a 1-megawatt thermal reactor built in Dradia, a city 20 km from Algiers. Alfonsin has suspended all his trips abroad until after the 14 Mar elections.

Highly reliable official sources consulted by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS said that Alfonsin had considered traveling to Algeria on the previously promised official visit and then traveling to Athens to attend the fourth Group of Six meeting. Both trips were suspended, however, and no new dates have been set for them.

Perez Ferreira will travel with some officials, among them Roberto Garcia Moritan, who is the director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Disarmament and Nuclear Affairs.

The nuclear reactor, whose construction contract was signed in May 1985, is the second that Argentina has exported to a developing country. At the end of 1988 a similar reactor built by CNEA was dedicated in Peru.

The reactor and all its equipment are in a large antiseismic building. They have the most advanced safety systems.

The "Nur" (an Arabic word meaning brightness) reactor and its fuel elements were submitted to the safeguard system of the international nuclear energy organization (OIEA), in keeping with the notes exchanged by Argentina and Algeria.

Army General Staff Announces Training Exercises

PY2303014789 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2144 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (TELAM)—In a communique released today, the Army General Staff announced the movement of troops and materiel as part of exercises and said the people should not be alarmed.

Here is the text of the communique:

"In accordance with a previously approved training program and with the current training level, there will be movement of troops and materiel in several areas of the country.

"For logistical reasons, combat vehicles and other items will be transported by train to meet the requirements of internal transfer within the Army.

"This information is hereby conveyed to the people to prevent alarm over the movement."

Federal Court Upholds Terrorists' Imprisonment

PY2303142789 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] The San Martin Federal Court has upheld the preventive imprisonment ruled by Moron Federal Judge Gerardo Larrambedere against 20 terrorists who are being prosecuted for their involvement in the seizure of the 3d Mechanized Infantry Regiment of La Tablada on 23 January 1988.

Bolivia

Officials on Fight Against Drug Trafficking

PY2203162189 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Information Minister Hermann Antelo yesterday ruled out the possible presence of U.S. Army troops in Bolivia and stated that the operation conducted by personnel of the Bolivian Anti-Drug Forces to repress and control drug trafficking has proved to be more positive than that carried out by U.S. troops.

Antelo made these remarks following a visit by U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and his entourage to President Paz Estenssoro.

Both Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia Baldivieso and Interior Minister Eduardo Perez said that the issue concerning the arrival of U.S. Army troops in Bolivia to cooperate in the struggle against drug trafficking was not discussed at the meeting, which lasted 1 hour.

Antelo reiterated that the Bolivian forces are efficient, while Abecia stated: ..."the issue was not discussed, I cannot lie. It is up to the Bolivian Government to prevent this situation (the arrival of foreign troops)."

"I do not know if President Bush will make a decision about the use of troops in the struggle against drug trafficking. Thornburgh did not mention the issue at all, but he did agree with the measures and procedures adopted by the Bolivian Government," Antelo said.

Abecia stated that Thornburgh congratulated the president on how he peacefully conducts his business.

Abecia qualified the meeting as "very positive," because the need to promote joint action to fight "the scourge of mankind" was recognized.

The interior minister said: "One of the most important things that was emphasized at the meeting is the fact that the two governments have recognized that the drug trafficking problem has a two-fold problem: One is the concern about production and the other is consumption. Therefore, we cannot talk about a final solution to drug trafficking in terms of eradicating drug production only; a final solution would also entail controlling drug abuse."

It should be recalled that in July 1986, 160 U.S. Army troops arrived in Bolivia to support the Bolivian Anti-Drug Forces in their struggle against drug trafficking. It was reported at that time that the main objective of U.S. troops was to arrest Roberto Suarez Gomez, known as "the Cocaine King."

The presence of foreign troops, however, did not yield any positive results; not one drug trafficker was arrested, nor a single gram of drug confiscated.

Bolivian troops then carried out a search for Suarez Gomez, who was finally arrested. Suarez Gomez, who was sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment, is being held at the San Pedro prison in La Paz.

Minister Opposes U.S. Troops

PY2403023389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0028 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] La Paz, 23 Mar (EFE)—Defense Minister Alfonso Revollo today said that the Bolivian Armed Forces will not allow the United States to deploy troops in Bolivia to fight drug trafficking.

According to a report from the Information Ministry, Revollo criticized U.S. officials' proposal to send military troops to Central and South America to fight drug traffickers.

Revollo added that Bolivia is fully sovereign and that, therefore, "the Bolivian Armed Forces will not permit that (troops to be sent)," the report says.

Revollo stated that the Bolivian Armed Forces support the antidrug action taken by the specialized Bolivian police forces.

The report adds that Revollo confirmed the arrival of 300 U.S. technicians and soldiers in April to participate in "civic action" related to the enlargement of the Capitan Rojas airport in Potosi, 574 km south of La Paz.

Finance Delegation To Attend Talks in Europe

PY2203180189 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Finance Minister Ramiro Cabezas yesterday told EL DIARIO that Bolivia will not go to the Paris meeting with a single and ineffective strategy with which to try to negotiate the bilateral debt with creditor countries. He

said that he will ask for new long-term credits in order to be able to pay debts which are overdue, which will soon fall due, or which have high interest rates.

Cabezas stated that the Bolivian official delegation will be headed by Planning Minister Fernando Romero. It will attend the meeting of IDB governors which will be held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He added that afterwards this delegation will go to Paris to attend another conference to which our country has been especially invited.

Some members of the Bolivian mission traveled last night to the Netherlands to attend a technical meeting prior to the IDB governors meeting. The Bolivian mission will be presided over by Fernando Ruiz Mier, Financial policy and investment under secretary of the Planning and Coordination Ministry, and by Jacques Trigo, president of the Bolivian Central Bank. Jaime Delgadillo, secretary general of the National Committee for the Foreign Debt, will also participate together with some Bolivian bank representatives.

Minister Cabezas said that Bolivia will do its best to negotiate the bilateral foreign debt at the IDB governors meeting in Amsterdam since ministers from creditor countries will also be present at the meeting.

Cabezas said that a few days later there will be a meeting in Paris organized by French President Francois Mitterrand to announce the new French Government policy proposals for the foreign debt problem. At that meeting the Bolivian mission will listen to the proposals, which so far are unknown.

Cabezas added that Fernando Ruiz and Jaime Delgadillo, who have both been working on the bilateral debt project, will also tour several EEC countries to renegotiate the bilateral debt within the terms approved at the latest Paris Club meeting. They will try to obtain a reduction of the interest rates, since the financial and repayment terms have already been agreed. The only pending issue is the interest rates which in some cases are very high.

Cabezas said that it is not possible to employ a single and inflexible negotiation strategy with the creditor countries because each of them has different conditions, laws, economies, and charging policies.

"Therefore it would not be realistic to try to employ a single strategy since we must really negotiate, and when one negotiates both sides have to modify their positions," Cabezas said.

He remarked that the Bolivian Government has obtained donations from some countries, as in the case of Belgium, which cannot modify its interest rates but which instead has laws enabling it to make donations.

COB Declares 24-Hour Strike on 23 March

PY2303141989 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] The 24-hour strike called for by the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] will be implemented today. The Labor Ministry has stated that today's work schedules are optional due to the fact that it is Easter Thursday.

In remarks to Panamericana, Oscar Iturbe, the COB's permanent secretary, said that his strike, implemented to apply pressure, and today's religious activities are not incompatible.

Labor Minister Alfonso Rueda Pena has criticized the COB for having called a strike on a day that has special significance for the religious world.

Therefore, in accordance with the COB's call, the 24-hour strike must be carried out as of 0000 [0400 GMT] today.

The Labor Ministry has stated that all activities will be suspended at 1200 today so that the population can participate in the religious activities.

Device Explodes in Tarija Mormon Church

PY2303182689 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Report from Tarija]

[Text] Another dynamite attack occurred in this city this morning at approximately 0130 [0530 GMT], when an explosive device was placed on the windowsill of the Mormon Church located on Abaroa Street, Villa Fatima.

In this respect, police have released a report that they are concerned because they do not have a sufficient number of policemen to carry out patrols.

Police Chief Colonel (Carlos Casatola Morales) has indicated that the patrolling of streets in Tarija will be redoubled within the next few hours, even at the cost of having to ask the Armed Forces for help.

Central Bank Reports 1988 Trade Surplus

PY2203162389 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] According to an official report released by the Central Bank of Bolivia, the trade balance experienced a significant upturn in 1988, and a surplus of more than $20 million was registered.

In order to make a pertinent evaluation, the Central Bank used data supplied by the National Institute of Statistics, the Metallurgy Ministry, YPFB, the General Customs Directorate, as well as Central Bank records.

In 1988 exports totaled $600,500,000, including traditional and non-traditional products, while imports totaled $578,600,000 CIF [expansion unknown]. Imports are broken down into consumer goods, intermediate goods, capital goods, and miscellaneous goods.

The Central Bank report also includes itemized total export figures. Total mineral exports reached $270,500,000, of which tin exports significantly improved, totaling $74,600,000. Hydrocarbons exports totaled $218,900,000.

Concerning non-traditional products, exports totaled $111 million. Sugar, which totalled $10,300,000, played a leading role.

Of the $130 million worth of imported consumer goods, perishable goods totaled $70 million while durable goods totaled $59,900,000.

Intermediate goods totaled $203 million, consisting mainly of construction materials which totaled $19 million. Imported capital goods totaled $240 million.

Brazil

Finance Minister Arrives in Great Britain

PY2303003489 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega arrived today in London. He met with the British finance minister to talk about foreign debt reduction plans.

British Finance Minister Nigel Lawson received his Brazilian counterpart with a handshake and advice: It is necessary to be cautious in order to avoid false expectations. Lawson was referring to the Brady plan, which seeks to overcome the foreign debt impasse in countries like Brazil. The plan was recently announced, but the U.S. Government has not yet established the details.

After a meeting with the British Central Bank president, Minister Da Nobrega said that despite their caution, the British were sympathetic to the U.S. plan.

[Begin Da Nobrega recording] The president of the British Central Bank said that he will rapidly contact British banks to find out how they want to participate. Everyone, however, believes that something will be done, and that the solutions that are—so to speak—taking shape may alleviate the debt burden in Latin America. [end recording]

Da Nobrega's next stop in his tour of Europe will be Paris, where he will meet other Latin American finance ministers during a meeting sponsored by the French Government.

During the meeting, the ministers will try to find an answer for a complex question: what to do to reactivate growth in indebted Latin American countries.

Cuban Maritime Company Director Visits Santos

PY2403021189 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Mar 89 p 2-H

[Text] On 17 March, Gumersindo Gonzalez Feliu, director of Mambisa, the largest Cuban state-owned maritime company, visited the port of Santos for the first time since Brazil and Cuba resumed diplomatic relations. Feliu, 52, has come to Brazil with Mambisa's commercial director, Ernesto Pujol Ortiz. After visiting Santos, they will visit the ports of Paranagua and Rio de Janeiro.

Feliu has been Mambisa's chairman for 1 and ½ years now. For the previous 7 years, he had been director-general of the entire Cuban port system (which comprises 24 ports). According to him, the objective of his trip was to get acquainted with Brazilian port technology and "to hold talks with Brazilian exporters to find ways of increasing trade with Cuba."

The Mambisa Company runs a fleet of 83 ships and is responsible for long-distance hauling. Another smaller state-owned outfit, the Caribe Company, runs lines from Cuba to Central America.

The Mambisa Company was created immediately following the socialist revolution in Cuba. According to its director, the company's fleet had a 54,000-ton capacity in 1959 and has a 1.2-million-ton capacity in 1989. The company has 4,800 employees, and the entire Cuban system has 14,000.

The visit of the Cuban executives was promoted by the Talismar Agencia Maritima, the representative of Mambisa in Brazil. The Santos port workers are the largest shareholders in the Talismar Agencia Maritima.

Communications Minister 'Satisfactory'

PY2303165889 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] The condition of Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, who has undergone surgery for the implantation of four coronary bypasses, is satisfactory.

The doctors assisting him have said that the minister has successfully passed the first 24 hours but warned that the critical phase will be overcome tomorrow, no sooner. Until then, Antonio Carlos Magalhaes will remain in the intensive care unit of the Sao Paulo Heart Institute.

Out of Intensive Care

PY2403011589 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes was removed this morning from the intensive care unit at the Heart Institute of Sao Paulo following heart surgery, from which he is making satisfactory recovery. The minister was taken back to his eighth floor room in the Heart Institute, and he is receiving light food. According to cardiologist Adib Jatene, if the minister's recovery proceeds as it has so far, he could be discharged from the hospital in 8-10 days.

Chile

Mella Latorre Expelled From Paraguay

PY2303222389 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Chilean photographer Alejandro Mella Latorre has been expelled from Paraguay, reportedly because of his charges against members of the Paraguayan Police Investigation Department who still hold important positions in the new Paraguayan administration.

Mella Latorre, who admitted having worked for Chile's National Intelligence Directorate (DINA)—which has been replaced by the National Intelligence Center (CNI)—and who was held in a Paraguayan jail for more than 8 years for allegedly taking part in the murder of Nicaraguan dictator Anastacio Somoza, had been under house arrest since 19 March. After his remarks, he was informed that he would be expelled from the country in a matter of hours.

Mella Latorre's lawyer, Heriberto Alegre, immediately appealed to the court. The immigration officials, however, did not wait for the court's decision, said Mella Latorre, a few hours before being put on a plane to Santiago. [passage omitted]

The Chilean photographer arrived in Santiago on a Paraguayan Airlines flight at 1130. Upon his arrival, Mella Latorre reported on the atrocious tortures he was subjected to during those 8 years in jail. He also said that most of the time he was held incommunicado.

The photographer was checked by the international police without any difficulty, and upon leaving the airport he granted an interview to the press. The reporters' first question naturally related to his alleged participation in the murder of Nicaraguan dictator Anastacio Somoza in Paraguay, where Somoza had sought refuge after being ousted.

Mella Latorre not only denied having been near the place of the murder but also charged the Paraguayan authorities with complicity in the attack, which took place on 17 September 1980 in Asuncion.

[Begin recording] They knew very well who murdered Somoza. According to what I have learned in those 8 years, the murderers acted with impunity despite the extremely strong, permanent police control over the country. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The Paraguayan authorities charged Mella Latorre with being a communist and a subversive. At the time of his arrest, the Paraguayan officials released several photographs of Mella Latorre wearing the Nicaraguan Sandinist Forces' uniform. According to the Paraguayan authorities, Mella Latorre was then in Nicaragua to take part in the military coup that ousted Somoza.

PCCh To File Suit Against Government

PY2303213589 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] will file a lawsuit against the government next week because of the government's charges that the PCCh took part in poisoning the Chilean grapes, PCCh spokesman Jose Sanfuentes said. Sanfuentes said that the government will be sued for slander and libel.

Colombia

UP Official on 'Annihilation Campaign'

AU2303121189 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 22 Mar 89 p 6

[Peter Kirschey report]

[Text] His name stands at the top of the hit list of the Colombian death squad: Oscar Duenas, member of the Executive Committee of the Patriotic Union (UP) and city counselor of Tunja, north of the capital of Bogota.

In a talk during his visit to Berlin this week, he emphasized the dramatic situation in his home country. It is characterized by an unprecedented annihilation campaign, which is aimed mainly at functionaries and officials of the Patriotic Union—a movement that includes communist, left-wing, and other democratic forces. More than 800 UP politicians have already had to pay for their support for a democratic Colombia with their lives, Oscar Duenas noted.

The Colombian patriot said that the all-powerful narcotics mafia, in alliance with the large landowners, right-wing military, and parts of the oligarchy, are behind all these attacks. They fear for their power and are prepared to use any means to preserve it.

From his own experience, Oscar Duenas reported how the death squad persecutes its opponents. A group which calls itself "Rambo" has waylaid him several times. However, up to now he has always been warned in time. There is always the danger of his being shot at from a window, a passing car, or from behind a bush. This is

why the government provides him—and other UP politicians—with bodyguards around the clock. "Even though this means a permanent threat, we will continue to fight!" Oscar Duenas affirmed.

Asked about the possibilities of a political solution, the city counselor of Tunja sees an opportunity if the government cooperates with all democrats in the fight against gang terrorism and does not try to split up the movement of the left.

Ecuador

Payments to International Banks Announced

PA2403012589 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0022 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Quito, 23 Mar (REUTER)—The Ecuadoran Government announced today that it will make "partial and modest" payments on its debt to international banks in 1989, thus confirming an end to the debt payment moratorium announced on Monday.

"Within the negotiations process with private international banks and after suspending interest payments for 26 months, the country will make partial and modest payments this year to keep foreign commercial lines open," an official communique stated.

Rodrigo Borja's Social Democratic government, which took office 7 months ago, did not announce today when it will begin to make the payments or the amounts that will be paid, but noted that it is up to date with the rest of its creditors.

The communique notes that the U.S. Government increased its credit line to Ecuador by $30 million within the framework of the "Credit Commodity Corporation (CCC)" for buying food for the country. The current credit line is now $130 million.

"We are up to date in our commitments to the Paris Club to reestablish credit lines with friendly governments for financing development programs," the communique states.

The communique adds: "We have made our payments to the Inter-American Development Bank, the Andean Development Corporation, the World Bank, the Andean Reserve Fund, and the Andean Development Bank."

The government also stated that it has paid off half of the stopgap loan granted by the Venezuelan Government—though it did not specify the amount—"to enable it to receive other funds for which dispersements were suspended due to lack of payment."

Legislative Bloc Moves To Impeach Officials

PA2403002989 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] In a joint communique, a legislative bloc consisting of the Democratic People's Movement [MPD], the Alfarist Radical Front [FRA], the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP], the Ecuadoran Roldosist Party [PRE], and the Socialist Party of Ecuador [PSE] has asked Congress President Wilfrido Lucero to convoke special sessions of Congress to impeach several officials representing both the current and previous government.

Speaking for the five parties, PSE Deputy (Victor Granja) pointed out that the current progovernment legislative majority is promoting impunity for former President Febres Cordero's corrupt aides since, according to the Constitution, the deadline to interrogate the former officials expires on 10 August and no other action is being taken in this regard.

Furthermore, the communique states that the national parliament can neither deny this request nor reject its supervisory responsibilities because a political pact exists between the Democratic Left and the Popular Democracy Party [DP].

In their communique, the MPD, FRA, CFP, PRE, and PSE also ask for a reorganization of the Oversight Commission [Comision de Fiscalizacion] and political control of Congress, since this parliamentary body is currently controlled by a progovernment majority that acts in accordance with the regime's interests.

[Begin Granja recording] The politicians of the PRE, CFP, FRA, MPD, and PSE today released a document that we sent to National Congress President Wilfrido Lucero.

In this document, we told Congress President Lucero that out of respect for the Ecuadoran people, our political parties, and legislators' rights—which were recognized by Dr Lucero himself when he became Congress president—he must deal with the political impeachments we have presented against officials of the previous and current governments. Our concern is basically that if officials of the previous government are not tried before 10 August 1989, the Congress president and the leaders of the legislative majority will be placing the corrupt officials of Leon Febres Cordero's government above the law.

The Congress president should also deal with the impeachment proceedings against current government officials, because the National Congress cannot deny the supervisory responsibilites it has regarding people who have violated the law and the Constitution because of a simple political pact. [end recording]

Paraguay

Stroessner's Son 'Dismissed,' Officials Confined

PY2303152789 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Mar 89 p 9

[Excerpt] An official source reported yesterday that Colonel Gustavo Stroessner has been dismissed from the Army on charges of desertion and that the possibility that the former Paraguayan president's son may be prosecuted if he returns to the country has not been ruled out. The source adds that General Alfredo Stroessner has also presumably been dismissed because he has already reached the age of retirement.

The source explained that to desert from the Armed Forces is a very serious crime and that "in the case of war, the desertor can be sentenced to death, something that has occured on several occasions in military history."

The source added that someone who is dismissed from the Armed Forces loses his military status and becomes an ordinary citizen.

It has also been reported that former Police Investigations Chief Pastor Milciades Coronel has been banished to the Tava'i area, where the II Corps is headquartered. Former Defense Minister General Gaspar German Martinez is being held in a ranch located in the town of San Jose, and [former Industry and Commerce Minister] Dr Delfin Ugarte Centurion was confined to a district of Quyquyho. [passage omitted]

Electoral Board Recognizes Five New Parties

PY2303163189 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Mar 89 p 7

[Text] The Electoral Board yesterday recognized five new political parties in compliance with the parties' request. The measure authorizes these political parties to participate in the presidential elections with their own candidates.

The following parties were registered at the Electoral Board: the Workers Party (PT), the Humanist Party (PH), the National Socialist Movement, the National Christian Union Movement (Blanco Party), and the Unified Radical Liberal Party (PLRU).

It should be noted that representatives of the Radical Liberal Party before the Electoral Board disagreed with the recognition of the PLRU.

Former Senate Deputy Chairman Released

PY2303152489 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 23 Mar 89 p 3

[Excerpt] Dr Ramon Enrique Reverchon, former Senate deputy chairman and former president of the Encarnacion City Colorado Party Precinct, was released from custody yesterday. [passage omitted]

Peru

Prime Minister on Latest Terrorist Attacks

PY2303211289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister and Interior Minister Armando Villanueva del Campo affirmed today that there can be no compromise with terrorism. He made this remark after meeting with the Commander of the National Police. He also said that 70 percent of the subversive cells have been destroyed and that security measures have been adopted to prevent attacks during Holy Week.

[Begin recording] [Villanueva] What happened last night in Lima is nothing unusual. In the past 48 hours the terrorists staged attacks, particularly in Junin Department. In Sur Chico there were also some terrorist acts, and a farm was destroyed. The attacks in Lima are part of a preholiday effort to counter our campaign to inform the country of the defeats inflicted on the subversive movement. At this time I can report that 70 percent of the terrorist cells have been destroyed. The terrorists can react, however, and they are launching minor attacks with groups that can be easily deployed. Because the groups are small, it is difficult to capture them.

I am using the language that is usual in this ministry, but I have just met with the commander of the National Police, and we are going to adopt protective during these days. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The community should be assured that appropriate measures are being adopted...

[Villanueva, interrupting] You can be sure of that. I would not call for patience, but for an understanding that we began this new stage only 2 weeks ago. I believe we will have very positive news that will demonstrate that the latest deplorable incidents do not really represent the complete situation.

[Reporter] Finally, Mr Prime Minister, has an assessment been made of the latest deplorable incidents?

[Villanueva] Yes, we have just held a 2-hour meeting to analyze the situation. I should have good news very soon. [end recording]

Shining Path Ambushes, Actions Reported

PY2303181889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1458 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Lima, 23 Mar (EFE)—One officer and five guards from Peruvian National Police died during several Shining Path ambushes in the Peruvian central mountain range.

The police reported in Lima today that alleged members of the pro-Maoist Shining Path terrorist organization attacked with grenades and homemade bombs a vehicle carrying eight policemen, four of whom died.

The attack occurred on 22 March in the jungle area of Satipo, Junin Department, in the Peruvian central region, near the town of Monterrey.

On the same day, Shining Path guerrillas attacked a pickup truck carrying policemen and 1 officer, who was shot dead.

The ambush occurred on the highway that leads to Jauja, Junin Department, as the policemen were heading for San Agustin de Cajas to reinforce a police post that had been under attack by Shining Path guerrillas. One policeman died in that attack.

Shining Path terrorists were also charged with bombing three high-voltage towers near the city of Cerro de Pasco early this morning.

The guerrillas also bombed the Parashga mayor's office, a mining center, and dynamited a checkpoint located at the entrance of Cerro de Pasco.

Early this morning, an attack was perpetrated against lawyer Rodolfo Asensio's home in Lima. The attack caused damage but no victims.

Asensio is member of the "democratic lawyers" group which defends alleged Shining Path guerrillas in court.

It is believed that the individuals who attacked Asensio's home are members of the self-styled "Rodrigo Franco Command," which began its activities on 28 July 1988 when they killed the lawyer that defended Osman Morote, the Shining Path's second-in-command. He had been arrested in Lima.

The command, which bears the name of a government official killed in his home by Shining Path guerrillas, had already announced that it would kill two guerrillas for each government official murdered by terrorists.

Venezuela

Armed Forces Raid Communist Headquarters

PA2303182189 Cardcas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 17 Mar 89 p 14-D

[Unattributed "special" report]

[Text] Valencia—Brigadier General Francisco Limongi, commander of Armed Forces of Cooperation [FAC] Region Two, stated that a raid on the headquarters of the Communist Party of Venezuela [PCV] on Urdaneta Street, Valencia, had been a mix-up, because the PCV headquarters that was raided is on Urdaneta Street and the operation was held on Cantaura Street. [sentence as published]

Limongi said intelligence agents had received reports that suspicious persons were unloading propaganda material at an unidentified house on Urdaneta Street. Based on this report, intelligence agents, who maintain constant surveillance of city, visited the house.

The situation was cleared up when it was proved the PCV was in the process of moving to another location. The National Guard units thus released the five persons that had been temporarily arrested and returned the material that had been taken for inspection, he added.

The general noted that many actions of this type are carried out in Valencia based on reports by citizens who see persons that move suspiciously about the city.

Carabobo State PCV President Ali Morales protested what he considered an outrageous violation of the law by National Guard units against the Valencia PCV headquarters.

Morales showed reporters the disorder at PCV headquarters and stated that he had called the governor of Carabobo State to ask if the governor was still the state's Armed Forces commander. Morales added that he was unable to talk with the governor and was only able to speak to the policy secretary [secretario de politica].

Morales reported that FAC officials arrived at 1230 and searched all the PCV offices. The FAC units, which left at 1500, arrested five persons—including PCV Secretary General Jose Felix Ramirez—and confiscated a book collection valued at 5,000 bolivares. Morales added that the persons were released and the party belongings returned 5 hours later. He protested the abuses against his party, which has always been devoted to democracy and has defended it zealously.